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Jan. 23,
2002
Wednesday

NECC Observer

Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill & Lawrence, Mass.



11 Arts

*New series:
Legends of rock*



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*NFL playoff
preview*

Security drug arrest not connected to college

BY GAYLE SIMONE
Editor

After a story was published in the Lawrence-Eagle Tribune on Dec. 21, many NECC students and faculty were led to believe that the head of security on the Haverhill campus, Vincent Alaimo, was arrested for illegal possession of a Class B substance. The Tribune also reported the van involved in the arrest is used to shuttle NECC students between the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses.

Mark Andrews, vice president of administration, claims neither the man nor the van have a direct connection to the college.

"Vincent Alaimo is not assigned to the college," Andrews said. "He has only been on campus two to three times in July, when the new [security] contract was rolling out."

Andrews added that Rick Faro, who was chief of security on campus, was recently replaced by Glen Beal for reasons unrelated to the arrest.

"If you were to look at the security log," Andrews said. "You will not find Vincent Alaimo's signature. Only Rick Faro."

Michael Alaimo, Eagle Security owner and father of the accused, confirmed the younger Alaimo, although an employee of Eagle Security, was never assigned to the college.

"He is not assigned to any public building," Alaimo said. "He is assigned to construction sites only. I'm not going to fire him, unless he's found guilty."

“

**They ran an article
that was not accurate.**

—Mark Andrews

The Eagle Security van involved in the arrest also had no connection to NECC. According to Andrews, the college's security contract stipulates all vans used in the shuttle service must be a 1997 or a newer model. The van involved in the arrest is a 1992 Plymouth Voyager.

While the words "Proudly Serving NECC" are displayed on the side of the van, the registration number does not appear on the college's list of vehicles serving the college directly, Andrews said.

In an attempt to clarify the issue of NECC's connection to the arrest, Andrews said he sent a letter to the Tribune on Dec. 19. Andrews says the Tribune ran the article without considering his claims.

"They ran an article that was not accurate," Andrews said.

Thomas Lee, security manager at Eagle Security, in a formal letter to Mark Andrews on Jan. 4, said, "It has never been the intention, or the desire, of Eagle Investigation Services, Inc. to put the College in a difficult position relative to the Eagle Tribune news story of Dec. 21. Although much of the story printed was either inaccurate, or not based on fact, the company regrets these circumstances."

Eagle Security has donated 300 hours of security detail time to NECC in an effort to demonstrate its commitment to the college.

Stage axed from Tech Building

BY GAYLE SIMONE
Editor

On Jan. 2, a letter from President David Hartleb finally answered the question of whether the new technology building would have a stage. It will not.

Although the performing arts department and many faculty members tried to raise an additional \$500,000 for the stage, they failed to reach their goal.

In order for construction plans to continue, Hartleb had to sign off on the certification of the building, which, due to limited funds, did not allow for the stage to be included.

"It was implied that if I did not sign off on the certification, the building would be put off for 2-3 years," Hartleb said.

Susan Sanders, theater professor, learned of the bad news on Christmas Eve when she stopped by Vice President of Institutional Advancement Jean Poth's office to congratulate the college for reaching its \$2 million goal and drop off more contributions for the stage.

"I was told it's not going to hap-

pen," Sanders said.

Sanders said she met with Hartleb on several occasions to be part of the discussion with the architect and to be notified of deadlines.

Sanders, upset with the decision, said she is skeptical that these types of state issues happen this quickly.

"It's not just the stage," Sanders said. "But the administration has yet again shut out the faculty of the decision making process."

According to Sanders, this is an ongoing battle of more than 30 years.

"They lead us to believe that we are going to get a place to perform and then it's no," Sanders said.

According to Hartleb, the computer science program has to turn away students; not the case with performing arts. Sanders disagrees.

"Many of our students go on and transfer to the liberal arts," Sanders said. "The core of this college should be liberal arts."

But Hartleb pointed out that the new building is not just for computer science. There is a multipurpose conference room, a dark room and the biggest room on the blue print is the music/choral room.

Former Clinton cabinet member Robert Reich visits NECC

BY AARON FOSS
News Editor

One day after announcing his plans to run for governor of Massachusetts, Robert Reich made stops in the Merrimack Valley, including one at the NECC Lawrence campus.

NECC President David Hartleb greeted Reich with a firm handshake as he entered the John A. Dimity building on Jan. 10 and quickly stepped aside so that the ambitious Reich could greet several other faculty members who had gathered in the lobby to meet him.

Reich, a Cambridge Democrat, is a former U.S. Labor Secretary, serving on the Clinton administration from 1993 to 1997. Rumors had been rampant since last fall that Reich would make a bid for the governorship of Massachusetts, but it was only recently that he made it official. Reich, a staunch liberal, has

never held elective office before. He is throwing his hat into an already crowded field of opposition and will be running against fellow Democrats Shannon O'Brien, former State Senator Warren Tolman, Senate President Thomas Birmingham, Secretary of State William Galvin, and former Democratic Party Committee Chairman Steve Grossman.

After greeting several bystanders, Reich was guided throughout the halls by Hartleb and Kathy Rodger, dean of the Lawrence campus. Reich toured the Campus Learning Center where he made small talk with several of the toddlers, even though they seemed more interested in their Play-Doh than with Reich's visit to their classroom.

The former secretary then found himself reclined in a dental chair as Dental Assistant Jennifer Ortiz tried to examine his mouth. However, her attempt at the examination failed as Reich was repeatedly asking Ortiz

about herself and young son.

Ortiz explained that the dental training program was helping her to get an \$18-an-hour job and had already provided a daycare voucher for her child.

"It was very exciting to meet Mr. Reich and a great opportunity. I was already going to vote for him before he visited. I think Jane Swift is good, but it's time for a change. I want to see what he's about," said Ortiz.

"I was excited because Reich is a supporter of community colleges in general," added Kerin Humidiani, Coordinator for the Dental Assistant Program.

After his tour, Reich held his scheduled 11:00 a.m. conference to talk about work force development. The talk was open to the public and the audience included several members of Northern Essex faculty and local business owners. Reich hit on



Aaron Foss photo

Robert Reich, left, chats with President David Hartleb during the conference on work force development in Lawrence.

See Reich, page 7

Opinion

New staff, new attitude, new commitments

Editorial

As we embark into the spring semester here at NECC, the new staff of the Observer is committed to informing the student body and faculty of all the news in and around campus.

Among the pages of the Observer, you will find the latest news on issues such as the budget and the new Technology Building. With Co-News Editors we commit to having more information about our Lawrence Campus in each issue.

Our Arts and Entertainment and features sections will bring all the campus activities to life. Covering plays, concerts and all other activities in each issue. They will also be covering off campus events that either have a direct effect on the college or would be of interest to the student body and faculty. With a series like "Legends of Rock and Roll" our new Arts and Entertainment Editor is going to bring a little bit of history into the section.

Look for our new section, Health and Happiness, for great recipes to gift ideas. With a new column, Kitchen Bell, we look forward to

helping students and faculty with the important little things in life we usually tend to dismiss rather easily.

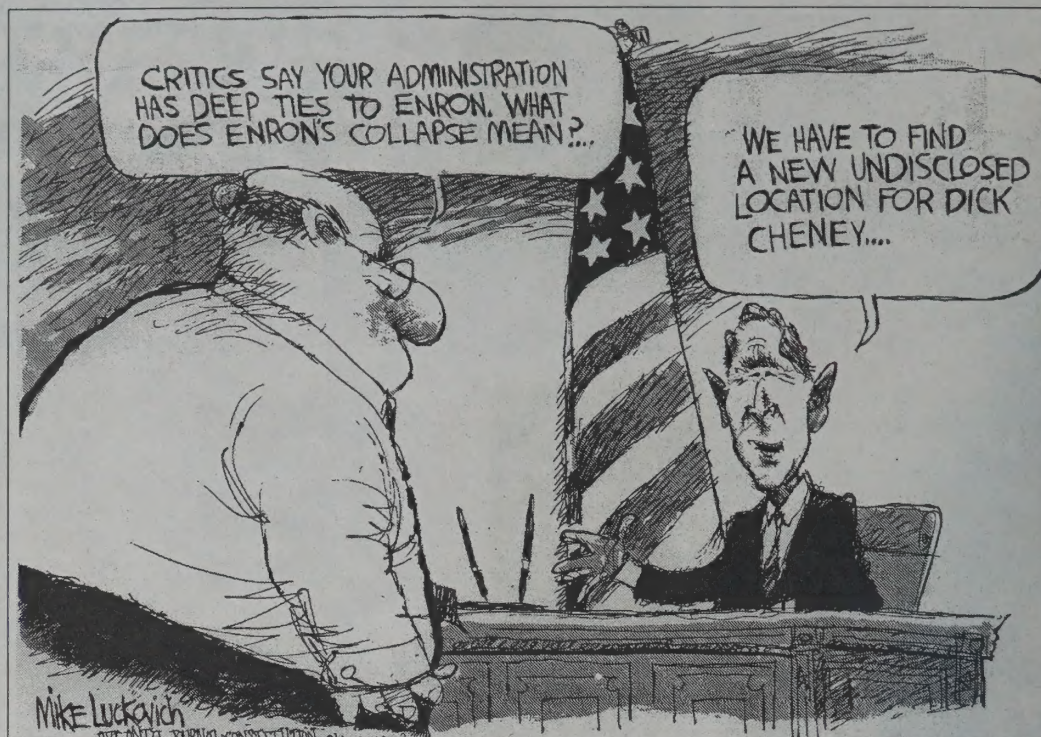
In sports, the new Sports Editor is committed to bring you all the scores and highlights of the games on campus. Adding the column, "Point vs. Counter Point", the healthy debate among many sports issue. First up, "Who will win the Superbowl?" Each side will take a different perspective and debate their reasons for their choice or feelings.

We have a new Staff Photographer/Reviewer who is committed to bring a full page photo essay to each issue. Look for it on the back page. He has some great ideas. He will also have a column dedicated to movie, books, or band reviews.

Our new Opinion Editor will also have a new column, Pellerin's Pit, to add to the pages to the Observer. First up for him is the on going issue of the Sept. 11, tragedy.

The new staff is very excited and committed to be the best. We look forward to our upcoming publications and hope you enjoy each issue.

Please feel free to contact us on anything you feel the campus should know. We want you, the student body and faculty, to be heard through the pages of the Observer.



Roaming Reporter

What is your New Year's resolution?

GAYLE SIMONE, EDITOR



Welcome back Students and Faculty!

My name is Gayle Simone. In my second semester as a journalism major at NECC, I am the new Editor of the Observer.

Among my favorite things are the Boston Bruins; my blood type is definitely "black and gold."

I want the Observer to have an outstanding semester. Feel free to contact me at the newsroom 978-556-3633 or via email, SimoneGabby18@aol.com

NECC Observer

*The award-winning student newspaper
of Northern Essex Community College*

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Check out our Web page:

<http://observer.nec.mass.edu>

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Opinion Editor: David Pellerin

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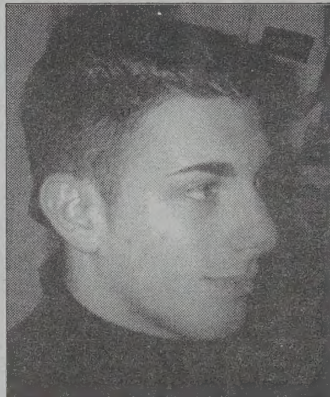
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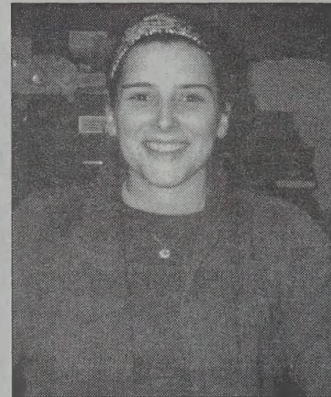
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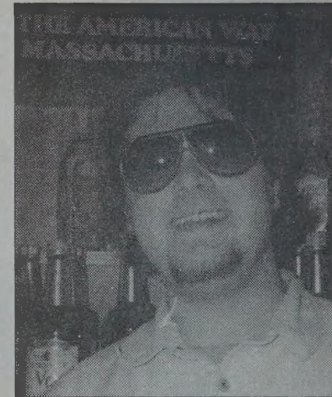
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Phil Coppolla, bookstore employee
"To get myself back into school by May."

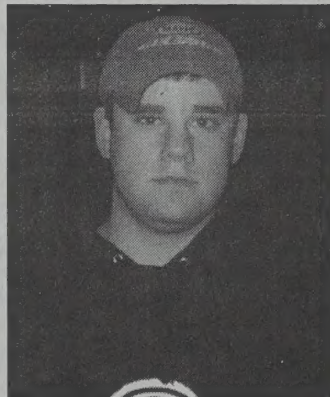


Amanda Ducharme, graphic design
"To quit some bad habits of mine."

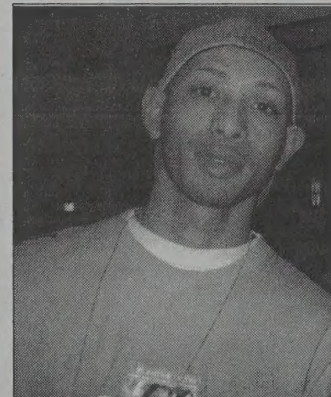


Ben Diggory, undeclared
"To be declared."

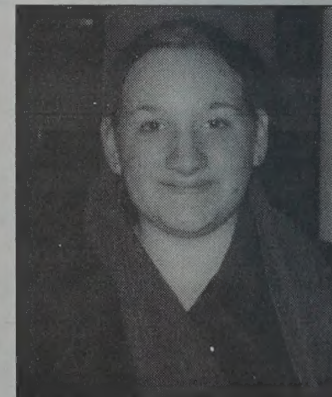
David Pellerin photos



Rich Modini, graphic design
"To get better grades and study harder."



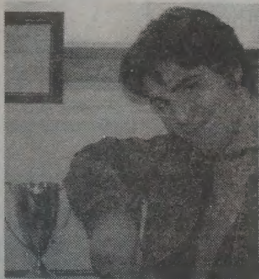
Jose Solis, bookstore employee
"To win the lottery."



Stephanie Lalumier, student
"To stop eating chocolate. I am a chocolate lover."

Opinion

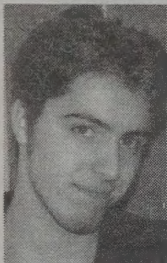
DAVID PELLERIN, OPINION EDITOR



Greetings my fellow Neccs. My name is David Pellerin and I will be your new Opinion Editor for this semester. I enjoy making movies and would hope to one day work amongst the greats of Hollywood: Scorsese, Spielberg, and Seagal. I hope to expand my opinion column to create something amazing. I encourage all to contact me with your thoughts about current topics of the day. If you're lucky I might just disagree with you and prove you wrong. I believe it was Steve Guttenberg who said, "you cannot stop my message from being heard." Well just like Gutes I cannot be stopped.

Hollywood needs heroes during times of war

DAVID PELLERIN



Ever since Sept. 11, Hollywood filmmakers have been hesitant to make movies dealing with terrorism. Currently, the top movies at the box office are "The Lord

of the Rings" and "Harry Potter."

Hollywood seems to be more interested in fantasy than the reality of war. What these producers and filmmakers have lost sight of is the power that the film industry has over the position of a countries citizens on a political situation. They should be making films that deal with war or conflict against our adversaries.

A great way to showcase this struggle on screen is to have larger than life

Americans fighting for our freedom at all costs. This restores our patriotism, which is needed in our time of political unrest. So far Hollywood hasn't been open to an idea like this.

Action film legend Arnold Schwarzenegger had his latest movie "Collateral Damage" shelved after Sept. 11 due to the terrorist related content in the movie. Andrew Davis directed the Warner Bros. film that almost never saw the light of day. Presently no other "war-time" films



Rambo—will he make a return to the big screen to fight the Taliban?

are even being put into production.

I feel all the film industry needs is to realize the importance of these films. What they may need to do is look to the past for help.

In the past, during times of war, many films dealt with political issues and conflicts of the times. Directors took the chance to make films that showed the conflict and made Americans have pride to root for our side to come out on top. John Wayne and Lee Marvin taking on the Nazis, Sean Connery and Harrison Ford versus the Russians, these stars made movies which showed us the glory of our country during a war. These productions were also important in that the main characters were all modern day heroes. They were everyday American's who were doing extraordinary things for their country during a period of war.

Growing up in the '80s during the cold war, I always loved seeing all these movies. I wasn't the only one. Many people, young and old, would look up to their screen heroes and have a sense of patriotism after leaving the movie theatre. I really

think America is ready to have a return of this to this type of filmmaking. American pride is at an all-time high. We just need that final piece where Hollywood will create a new screen hero for us to believe in.

So, is Hollywood going to get its act together and start making films involving the conflict in Afghanistan? It looks as if action icon Sylvester Stallone is ready to dust off his combat boots once again. Stallone's trying to get "Rambo IV" to be put in production. In this new film Stallone's character John Rambo will defend the U.S. against the Taliban forces. Currently the film is on hold and no studio has purchased the rights for the script.

Also, the "Collateral Damage" film has recently been retooled and will hit theatres in early February. The plot of the film now no longer involves Middle Eastern terrorism. The character Schwarzenegger plays in the film is a firefighter.

His character may be a step in the right direction for Hollywood. A city firefighter may just be the great movie hero America and I have been looking for all along.

LETTER

Ali showed courage, not cowardice

To the Editor:

Jaime Roy clearly knows very little about Islam, or about US history.

In the Muhammad Ali article (Observer, Dec. 14, 2001), Roy states that Ali was a coward for "not fighting for his country" during the Vietnam Conflict. Contrary to the way radical

Muslims such as Osama bin Laden behave, the Koran does not preach violence.

In fact, Islam is quite a non-violent religion. Their faith, like the Christian faith, tells its people not to kill.

I applaud Ali for not fighting for our country. As much as I love the United States, that "war" was wrong. It was wrong, and it was a mistake for us to ever get involved. Many people agreed with Ali, both average people and celebrities.

Even more people agree now, some 25 years later. Thousands of young people died both here, and in Vietnam, because of a stupid war that we never should have been involved in in the first place.

On another note, why should Ali have "defended his country"? Considering the way blacks were treated at the time he made his decision, what had his country ever done for him?

He would rather lose his title, and go to jail, than kill senselessly. What is wrong or shameful about that? The world needs more people like him. How is it cowardly to obey the laws of your god? Especially if it goes contrary to what your government would have you do?

To me, that's courage, not cowardice.

Sheila Bailey
NECC student

LETTERS

Student expresses support for security

To the Editor:

I am a student at NECC and feel that our security team is doing a good job. I have been on campus in the early morning as well as late in the evening and have found the security guards to be very professional in their duties. They are very courteous and are always offering assistance. For example, the morning guard in Haverhill works very hard to keep the flow of students moving, while keeping an eye towards pedestrians

moving from our lots to classrooms and offices. I have even brought my daughter and son on campus and they felt extremely comfortable and safe. I think that it is important to give credit, where credit is due. Sometimes, it's these little things that need to be highlighted, especially in these extraordinary times we live in today!

John McGuire
NECC Student

LeBlanc announces union candidacy

The following letter was sent last week to members of the Mass. Community College Council, the labor union representing some 7,000 full- and part-time faculty and professional staff members, many of whom work at NECC.

Dear colleague,

We live in challenging times for labor unions.

- In the San Francisco Bay area, 43 unionized production workers have been locked out of their jobs by the Peter Mondavi family, owners of the Charles Krug winery. In response, union members, students, religious leaders and other community activists have rallied to support workers at the last union winery in Napa Valley.

- In Derby, N.Y., a CWA local is protesting New Era Cap's decision to move jobs to lower wage, right to work states and overseas sweatshops. Workers went on strike last summer after the company cut wages by \$3 per hour in an anti-labor environment where workers are forced to cut out labels that say "Made in Bangladesh" and replace them with New Era labels. Union members, the Major League Players Association, United Students Against Sweatshops and others say the New Era Cap must improve salaries and working conditions in a company known for harassing its union activists and for dangerously speeding up the production line.

- In Massachusetts, Gov. Jane Swift filed bills to increase our healthcare costs to 25 percent several

times last year. Each time the legislature ignored her request, but in the face of a growing budget deficit last fall (and against the advice of some of her advisers), she attempted it again. MCCC lobbyist Charles Flaherty lobbied Speaker Finneran urging him to kill the bill by a veto proof margin in the House, and a coalition of labor unions lobbied legislators to reject the bill. Eventually the governor reversed her position saying that she had been "persuaded" by the coalition's argument.

It is in such a challenging environment that I announce my candidacy for Vice President of the Mass. Community College Council. For several years I have served the union at both the state and local level working to be an agent of change and a force for a stronger union. I have served as chapter building rep., secretary and president at Northern Essex. I have also served on the MCCC's Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and on the Personnel and Strategic Action Committees. As co-chair of SAC, I have worked to lobby the legislature to expeditiously fund our collective bargaining agreement. I also proposed that our union hire former Speaker of the House Flaherty to lobby on our behalf on Beacon Hill.

While many businesses and politicians have lost the public's respect in recent years, labor unions are working together to retain their respect in difficult economic times. By forging better alliances with other unions and thinking smarter and reacting wisely to the challenges ahead, the MCCC can set an ambi-

tious agenda and achieve its goals in the next decade.

- We must anticipate and proactively respond to changes in our workplace.

- We must maintain and (where necessary) improve services provided by our grievance officers, other coordinators and the central office staff.

- While we may no longer experience the exploitation that gave rise to our union decades ago, we must work to improve working conditions, especially for our part-time faculty and professional staffers.

- We must do a better job of introducing our new members to the MCCC and its mission.

- We must support and strengthen our local chapters. These first points of union contact for our members must be supported. Finding volunteers for these demanding jobs is never easy, but we must recruit and nurture a new generation of union leaders today.

My goal is to work with our state and local leaders and the rank and file membership to strengthen our union. We will then be better able to negotiate good contracts on time from a position of strength. We will also be better able to thrive in these challenging times.

I am asking for your support and vote. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely,
Joe LeBlanc

Joe LeBlanc is a Professor of English at NECC.

Opinion

Student gets frustrated over her financial aid

NORMA VITALE



Tuition going up and cuts on the financial aid can make somebody pull out their hair.

It's a frustrating situation to students who depend on

financial aid and to those who are paying for schooling out of their own pockets.

The school budget is low so some things must be cut which is affecting the students. Without financial aid I am unable to attend school. I am unable to afford it out of my own pocket. So, I turn to grants, scholarships, aids and loans to afford my way in.

With the semesters changing and the tuition bills out, I was frightful about not being able to return next

semester. I had received a letter from the school telling me that because of me being on final probation for financial aid, I would have to wait until "all" my grades were in before I got the second half of my loan.

Although I have been on final probation for financial aid for two years, I have never received a letter saying that I would have to wait until grades were in and I got the a-okay.

With cuts and a low budget that's what will happen. Even though everything turned out good, there is now another issue: cut back on some loan money or my work study money. This is another issue I have never had a problem with. I am only taking three classes so truly don't need all my loan money, but if I had taken two extra classes it would be hard to choose. I would definitely need all my loan money and work-study money since that is my "only" job that brings in enough money.

This is nerve racking for fellow students, the school system and me.



A few of my favorite things: laziness, cell phones, Paula Zahn

AARON FOSS

Well, I'm back. The holiday break was too long in my opinion and I can't wait to get back into the grind of being a NECC student. This is my first semester coming here full-time and I hope I can get a lot out of my experiences.

So since I had three weeks off for the holidays, you'd think I'd have a ton of things to spew out about how this or that reeks of awesomeness.

Well, the fact of the matter is that I didn't even think about writing this article until a week before deadline and I had no idea what I was going to write about until the day it was due.

I guess that you're supposed to be lazy on the holiday break, because I sure was. I spent a lot of time hanging out with my friends from NECC, my friends from high school, and made some new friends through people I knew. I spent a lot of time on-line, read a few books, watched TV, and basically chilling around my place. I went to bed late, slept until the afternoon, and I loved every minute of it.

After the fall semester, where I was incredibly busy, I think being lazy for a while was a good thing. I wasn't so lazy that I sat around while dust began to collect on me, but there was definitely a lot less stress in my life than usual.

So, if you ever find yourself

overwhelmed by your life and all the things that drive you crazy, take this piece of advice. Rent a movie, sit in your underwear, and be lazy. Sometimes sitting on your butt reeks of awesomeness.

I got a cell phone recently. This thing is incredible. I was never one to be "up to date" with trends and hell, I don't even have a computer at my apartment, much less cable-modem hookups or AOL.

My Nokia has changed my outlook on technology though. I used to think the only people who carried cell phones were preppies, walking around in there sweater-vests and sipping Evian while they talked to their stockbrokers.

While there might be a lot of them who do just that, cell phones should be a must for anybody who doesn't live in a shack in the woods because they shun technology. I can reach people anywhere now and I love it. Cell phones reek of awesomeness. So does "The Entertainer" which is the tone my ringer is set on. It reminds me of the circus.

Finally, I'd like to touch on something I heard on the news last week. CNN recently released an ad promoting one of their morning show anchors, Paula Zahn, as "provocative" and "sexy." The ads were pulled from TV because many people perceived them as racy and

inappropriate. Now as a journalist, I see CNN as a sort of role model in the industry and think they should be setting an example for all other news stations, like the way the Associated Press is the trendsetter for newspapers.

However, a 15-second ad saying an anchor is sexy has nothing to do with her journalistic integrity. People are reacting like it was pornography playing on their screens. Let me tell you now, there

is nothing wrong with CNN promoting the beauty of one

of their anchors. I'm not saying that I want them to air Wolf Blitzer in a G-string, but saying Zahn is sexy does no harm to anyone. Paula Zahn and controversial ads reek of awesomeness.

Reeking of Awesomeness

Speak your mind.

Send letters to:

observer@necc.mass.edu

AARON FOSS



Have you broken your New Year's resolution yet? I haven't because I never made one in the first place. Why should I make a promise to myself when

I know that in all likelihood, I'll break it before January is even over? I know that I wouldn't be able to keep the promise I made to myself, so I decided that rather than trying and being disappointed in myself for not following through, I would hold off.

Seriously, how many times have you actually followed through with the resolution you made for the New Year? How many times have you broken it? I'll bet that you fail a lot more than you succeed, don't you.

That's the way it is with millions of people, yet they continually make these resolutions, when subconsciously they know that it is made just in fun and they have no intention of keeping it.

When the time comes that they first break the resolution, people feel depressed or disappointed in themselves for not following through. I don't want to feel that way and I'm sure most people don't.

I'm not saying that resolutions are a bad thing. People in this world should always be trying to better themselves. We should all try to be better people because none of us are

perfect and we can always improve something about ourselves. What I'm saying is wrong is that we make January 1 every year the day when we all try to better ourselves.

If someone is completely serious about losing weight, quitting a bad habit, earning more money, or keeping whatever the resolution is, they need time to plan. I have always heard that going into something with a strategy is better than just rushing in, never the opposite.

Yet, at this time of year everyone throws that train of thought to the curb because of a holiday. People need to have the time to recognize what they want to change or improve. They need time to strategize and conceive a plan of how to go about doing it. It needs to be a plan that they know they can follow through with because if fits them as a person. These things are a must if

the resolution someone makes is ever going to happen for them.

Hurrying something is never good. Everything in life is a process and everything takes time. This is why I'm telling you to stop whatever you are doing to keep your New Year's resolution right now, if you feel like you're slipping. If you know you can keep up with it, then keep trying,

but for a lot of people right now they are struggling.

If you are one of them, quit right now before you go that one day without exercising or give in to the urge to have a cigarette. There will be a time when you are ready to stick to your plans and you will know when it is. That is the time to push and motivate yourself towards your goal.

Don't let a holiday dictate your life. That job is up to you.

Don't let a holiday dictate your life. That job is up to you.

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National News



Compiled by the Observer staff from AP wire reports

Toxic chemicals feared at WTC site

NEW YORK (AP) When the World Trade Center crumbled, the spotlight was on its two majestic towers, not on 7 World Trade Center—a building that stood and collapsed in their shadows.

But 7 WTC was toxic. It housed two electrical substations owned by Con Edison. And they contained 109,000 gallons of oil and hundreds of pounds of potentially dangerous chemicals set loose when the building fell.

Trace amounts of PCBs, a carcinogen, and larger quantities of sulfuric acid, a possible carcinogen and respiratory irritant, were among the hazards.

Details about some of the pollutants are contained in reports Con Ed made to the state Department of Environmental Conservation beginning Sept. 11. The AP recently obtained the documents from Con Ed.

Rain drowns out words at Klan rally on eve of MLK day

NEWPORT, Tenn. (AP) Rain and drums drowned out the words of two dozen Ku Klux Klansmen Saturday at a rally held days after a wooden cross was burned on the lawn of the town's first black mayor.

The rally, the first public Klan event in the region in decades, fell on Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday and two days before the observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Klan organizers said the town of 7,100 was selected because it was a convenient location, not because it has a black mayor. They denied involvement in the cross burning early Wednesday.

About 800 people attended a diversity festival Saturday held to counter the Klan event.

Ashcroft inspects security on Olympic mountain

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) Attorney General John Ashcroft examined alpine security measures at the Olympic site on Saturday before skiing down a slope at Snowbasin, where the Olympic men's and women's downhill competitions will be held.

Ashcroft visited Utah Olympic Park, where bobsleds, luges and skeleton athletes will zip down an icy track.

The sled track is surrounded by a 6 1/2-mile security zone.

Securing a mountainside is more difficult than protecting a building, and that is part of the reason Ashcroft wanted a close-up look at alpine venues.

Faculty members to hold panel on terrorism Jan. 30th

By DAVID PELLERIN
Opinion Editor

This month NECC will have a faculty panel to discuss the war on terrorism. The panel will discuss many aspects of this new war which will include issues of civil liberty, intelligence, security and some historical background which could help people understand the fear surrounding the attacks on the United States.

On Jan. 30, in the Library Conference Area, we will get a clearer picture of all the confusion and emotions that this new war is producing. The NECC Staff Development Committee is co-sponsoring the event. Other sponsors include The Contemporary Affairs

Club, The Criminal Justice Program, and The History and Government Department.

The lecture will feature some of our fine college professors giving their take on the war situation. This program is a continuation of a series started in the fall which were sponsored by Mike Weber. The lectures were focused on understanding Islamic culture. Judith Kamber, who is organizing the event said, "We wanted to continue this series with a faculty panel in which faculty could present and discuss their perspectives on various issues that we now face in light of the new war on terrorism." The panel members will include: Arthur Barlas, Bill Heineman, Terry Kalil, Carol Liebman, and Gerry Morin. These

professors should have their hands full as this is such a large and interesting topic to take. Ever since the terrorist attacks we all have so many questions that we would like answers for. Will we capture Bin Laden? Is our safety still at risk? What can we do to help? Any of these intriguing questions plus more could be answered this Wednesday from 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

There is no real way to answer for the heinous acts, which involve terrorism. Although, the best way to protect ourselves is through knowledge. All are invited to the discussion and admission is free.

For more information on this event please contact Judith Kamber at 978-556-3955 or at jkamber@necc.mass.edu.

NECC students receive awards for exceptional writing

By AARON FOSS
News Editor

Last month, 61 NECC students were honored at the Northern Essex Community College's Writing Award Ceremony. The students, who were enrolled in English Composition classes, were given books and certificates in recognition of excellence in composition.

According to a Northern Essex press release, NECC English professors read and grade approximately 4,500 papers per semester. The students chosen to receive the awards were cited for excellence by their English Composition instructors.

The students who received the distinguished awards were:

English Composition I Certificate of Awards were given to: Kerry Muse, Wendy Spurling and also awarded was the Distinguished Award for English Composition I to Stephen Gonzalo Jr. Marguerite Zaganis of

Amesbury. Laura A. Vaun of Andover. Bridget St. Pierre, Allison Martin, Matthew R. Sheehan, Kori Torrisi, Susan Finlay of Haverhill. Angela Diaz, Myra Pogue, Jenny Saba, Virgilio Velez, Christopher Romano, Elizabeth Casas from Lawrence. George Kiongera, Samuel Kiratu, Kimberly Hensdill of Lowell. Patrick Smith received a Distinguished award, Sheri L. Guilmette, and they are both from Methuen. Steve Gilleo received a Distinguished Award, Robert Mastrorio from Newburyport. Jennifer Murabito, Tim Bracken, Elizabeth M. Reti Distinguished Award, of North Andover. Robyn Summit, of Peabody. Derek Shaffer Distinguished Award, of West Newbury. Sara Mattinson, of Danville, NH. Rose Owen, of Derry NH. Kurhene Schessler of Hampton NH. Bruce Hutchinson of Kingston NH. Steven Langlois Tanya Winthrop, Leslie M. Tyson, Nancy Huntress of Newton NH. Bruce Hutchinson of Kingston NH. Steven

Langlois Tanya Winthrop, Leslie M. Tyson, Nancy Huntress of Newton NH. Michelle Kater, Khoi Dang of Salem NH. Heather C. Tierney of Windham NH.

Certificate of awards were given to the following English Composition II students:

James Keating of Amesbury. Jaclyn Payne of Bradford. Olivia Stanton of Georgetown. Suzanne Lucey, Lynn Caldwell, Aimee Murray, Kirsten Martin, Allan Mayo Disatistinguished Award of Haverhill. Rachel M. Pariseau, of Merrimac. Gil Matos, Marguerite C. Levesque, Darren Tierney, Dan Lyons, Adam Farber-Gourley of Lawrence. Sharbel Azzi, Anthony Gan North Andover. MaryAnne Hebb of Reading. Bryan Marshall of Rowley. Diane Murphy Atkinson, NH. Jessica Drouin, of Derry NH. Joseph S. Carder Distinguished Award, of Freemont NH. John Sefel Distinguished Award, of Penacook NH.

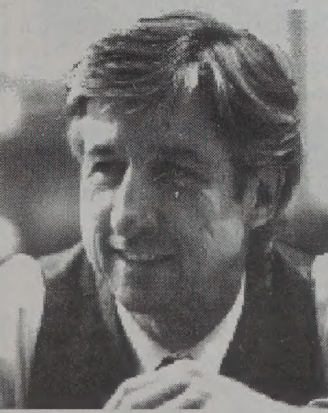
Tom Hayden to visit campus Jan. 29

LARC sponsors talk by renowned leader

Tom Hayden, a leader of anti-war, civil rights and environmental movements in America since the 1960s, an 18-year state senator from California and most recently the author of the critically-praised "Irish on the Inside: In Search of the Soul of Irish-America," will speak in the Bentley Library conference area on the Haverhill Campus on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at noon.

This is Hayden's ninth book, his second relating to Ireland. Hayden took a keen interest in that country, its history and politics in the 1990s, and was instrumental in making the teaching of the Irish famine of the 1850s part of the curriculum in California public schools.

The topic of his speech at NECC is "The Roots of Personal and Political Identity."



The event, sponsored by the Liberal Arts Revitalization Committee, is free and open to the public. Patrons are invited to bring a bag lunch. A book-signing will follow the talk.

Newly elected State Sen. Steve Baddour will introduce Hayden.

The book is billed as a persua-

sive history of Irish identity in the United States, and the Library Journal calls it "a revealing look at Hayden's youth and his journey of self-discovery."

"Hayden—Mr. Jane Fonda for some time—has fashioned himself into quite the Irish-American author," critic Tom Degnan wrote in the magazine Irish America. "Hayden's liberal/radical credentials are still impeccable, which may turn some readers' stomachs ... But Hayden's passion for Irish and Irish American affairs cannot be denied."

Frank McCourt, author of "Angela's Ashes" and "Tis," wrote, "Irish on the Inside" is not a big book, but it is packed and demanding ... whether you agree or disagree with Hayden's uncompromising views — pro-Sinn Fein, anti-colonialist — you'll find it a valuable guide to the craziness of a troubled area."

The event is free and open to the public.

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff from AP wire reports

Saddam discusses mobilizing Iraqis against US plans

BAGHDAD, IRAQ (AP) President Saddam Hussein and his senior aides discussed Sunday a general mobilization of Iraqis to face the prospect of a U.S. strike, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

U.S. President George W. Bush recently warned Saddam there would be consequence if Iraq did not resume co-operation with U.N. arms inspectors, who have been barred from Iraq since 1998.

On Sunday, Saddam chaired a meeting of the two most powerful bodies in his regime—the Revolutionary Command Council and the Regional Command of the ruling Baath party—to discuss ways to improve a mobilization of Iraqis, INA said.

The meeting discussed means to "confront the malicious, hostile plans that the rulers of America are brandishing against our people, and how to thwart them," the agency added.

Congolese volcano victims try to return home

GOMA, Congo (AP) Thousands of Congolese refugees ignored warnings from relief workers Sunday and scrambled around rivers of lava or over the still hot crust of older flows, trying to get home even as Mount Nyiragongo continued to tremble and smoke.

U.N. Officials want the refugees, estimated to number 300,000, to take shelter in relief camps. The volcano, the workers said, remains dangerous and the air in the burned out city of Goma may be polluted with poison gas from the lava.

Water purification plants were wiped out as the molten rock poured into the city of 500,000. Returning refugees were turning to polluted Lake Kivu for drinking water.

Nevertheless, many of the Congolese who fled to Rwanda said they would rather go home to begin rebuilding than live in U.N. camps.

US troops arrive in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) The arrival of U.S. troops has evoked a mixed reaction in the Philippines. Many here recall the American rescue of the country from Japan in World War II. Others fear a reversal of gains since the end of colonial rule.

About 160 Special Forces troops will train Filipino soldiers battling Muslim rebels linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

News

AARON FOSS, NEWS EDITOR



Yes, I'm back. For those of you who already know me, you may continue to admire me. For those of you who don't, I am Aaron Foss. This will be my third semester at NECC and I plan on majoring in Journalism. This semester I will be Co-News Editor, alongside Heather Gorton.

Being the only staff member left from last semester, I'm going to have to adjust with working with a new staff. I'm looking forward to it though, and with no offense to any former staff members, this new group seems like the most dedicated and hard-working to come around in a long time.

With me also being at the Observer the longest, I guess I'm sort of the "seasoned veteran" of the staff. I hope I can help the new writers with anything they need and give advice where needed.

As for me, I like country music, pro wrestling, being outdoors, and I take pride in being a redneck. Besides the Observer, I'm also a member of the Top Notch Players at NECC and this semester I'm going to join the Music Club and Parnassus Magazine staff.

The most important thing to me as a journalist is to inform people and express my opinions, which are sometimes controversial. This semester I will focus on hard news, but will contribute to other sections of the paper, as well as continuing to write my humor column, Reeking of Awesomeness.

If you would like to contact me and can't find me on the front steps of the Spurk Building, email me at adogg2000@yahoo.com or call 978-556-3633 and leave a message.

Making the smoking issue clearer

BY NORMA VITALE
Features Editor

Many smokers are still unclear on why they were moved to the back of the Spurk Building. During the last issues of the Observer, many voices from both sides were heard about the smoking issues on campus.

One voice I felt needed to be heard more: "We want to be fair to both smokers and non," said Mark Andrews, vice president of administration.

The ban on smoking near the front steps of Spurk back in November was not to wreck the freedom of the smokers, but was to stop the smoke coming into the offices and hallways near the entrances.

"We got complaints from staff and students that they couldn't take the smoke," said Cliff Clarke, chief of maintenance.

"We've always had a smoking issue here, it's nothing new," explained Andrews. "What took it over the edge is when I got letters and complaints from others who said this problem is hurting them. One staff member in C-111 got up right to my face and said you do not know

NEWS ANALYSIS

how much this smoke is hurting my life. When the non-smokers are affected, the school will fall on the side of the non-smokers."

At the meeting on Dec. 5, a pilot plan was initiated, which moved smokers to the quad at the back of the Spurk building.

"The quad is a great place to sit. It's peaceful," said Andrews. "It's better than putting up butt houses. We have a beautiful campus and that would be distracting."

Many campus's have butt houses. They are plastic buildings with seats and ashtrays inside for smokers to go and smoke, but they are located off the campus.

"We don't want to have to go and move smokers off campus that's why the quad is a good place and the smoke shouldn't bother anyone," said Andrews.

Andrews points out that there have always been designated areas from smokers to smoke. It is even written in the NECC handbook.

Then why are there no signs near these entranceways?

"I always had signs up there, but

they are constantly being torn down by students," said Clarke.

"We have a low budget to deal with and I would like to see the money going into the classrooms, than to really go into ordering and putting up more 'non-smoking' signs if they're going to be torn down again and again," said Andrews. "It's just common courtesy for other students and the school."

The Lawrence campus as well had smoking issues of its own. Recently during the fall, Lawrence moved smokers to the right of the campus and 20 feet away from the entrance, because smoke was coming into the building too. As far as Andrews knows, Lawrence campus has had no complaints about new smoking rules.

"This is a new adjustment and we were thoughtful on both sides," said Andrews.

"People can still hang outside on the stairs at the entrances," explains Clarke. "They just can't smoke there unless they're 20 feet or more from the entrance ways or in the back."

"Smoker need to be courteous to non-smokers," said Andrews. "They should be thankful. Some colleges don't permit smoking at all."

Winterfest plans announced

BY HEATHER GORTON
News Editor

A day of fun, music, free and low cost food games as well as giveaways, Winterfest is going to be extremely enjoyable.

On Feb. 6 at NECC in Lawrence, and on Feb. 20 on the Haverhill campus between 11

a.m. and 1 p.m. "This is a great opportunity to get involved," Dina Brown coordinator stated in an interview on Jan. 16.

There will be many activities that students may participate in, and also learn about some winter sports.

"It is an opportunity to see what NECC has to offer, and a chance to meet other students that

attend NECC," Brown said.

This promises to be a day of fun that is filled with many terrific opportunities.

Bookstore temporary hours for first two weeks of classes

Bookstore Hours for the first two weeks of classes.
These hours are good for both Haverhill and Lawrence locations

Monday Jan. 21st Closed for Holiday
Tuesday Jan. 22nd 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Wednesday Jan. 23rd 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Thursday Jan. 24th 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Friday Jan. 25th 8:30 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday Jan. 26th 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Sunday Jan 27th Closed
Monday Jan. 28th 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Tuesday Jan. 29th 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Wednesday Jan. 30th 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Thursday Jan. 31st 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Friday Feb. 1st 8:30 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday Feb. 2nd 9:00 am - 12:00pm

The last day to use Financial Aid or other book vouchers is Friday February 8th.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the bookstore at (978) 556-3999

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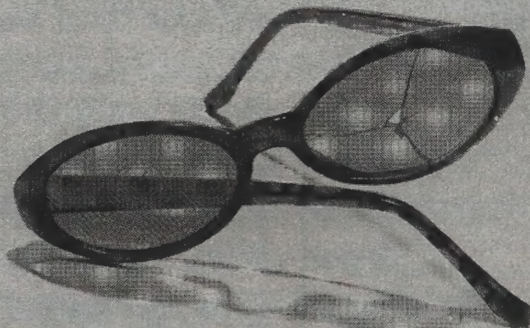


Photo by Michael Vucaro

U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

News

HEATHER GORTON, NEWS EDITOR



Hi, my name is Heather Gorton and I will be co-news editor with Aaron Foss. I came here from Providence, R.I. to study journalism at NECC. I will do my best to keep you informed with current events involving important topics that affect our everyday lives. Feel free to contact me at HeatherG143@hotmail.com.

Robert Reich visits Lawrence campus

Continued from page 1

several key issues including the economy, job training, and education. He spoke with several local officials about their concerns.

The issue of Lawrence becoming a poorer city and having a growing number of Spanish-speaking residents was an issue Reich discussed in-depth.

"Lawrence was left behind largely because the buck stops at the state level with the governor. Unfortunately, we have a series of governors through the '90s who just did not pay much attention. I don't know whether they didn't care or didn't have the leadership abilities, but they were not paying attention to what goes on in some of these communities," said Reich.

Reich also commented on the Cellucci-Swift administration, scolding them for making cuts to human service programs, such as English as Second Language courses.

When the conference ended, Reich headed to the Lanam Club where he met members of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce over a filet mignon lunch.

Reich promised that education would remain a high priority if he were elected governor.

"It's like I said many times when I was a U.S. Secretary, what you can do depends on what you

learn. Education is the gateway," Reich told the Observer.

Board of Trustees member Byron Matthews agreed.

"What they should be doing right now in the legislature is allotting more money to be funded towards community colleges. We shouldn't have to be raising our fees," said Matthews.

All in all, Reich seemed to make a good impression on everyone he met and all were glad that he made himself available for questions after the forum had ended.

What they should be doing... is allotting more money to be funded towards community colleges.

"I was very pleased with the forum. The participants made excellent observations about the economic scene in Lawrence and the help we will need to recover the area from the

recession. Northern Essex already plays a vitally important role in Lawrence, providing workforce education and this role will be even more important in the future. Mr. Reich knows this and praised the college for its good work," commented Hartleb.

"It has been great coming here and talking with students. I very much appreciate these very busy people taking their time to come here and talk with me about an issue I feel strongly about," said Reich.

"He has supported community colleges for many years. If he were to become governor, I am sure that this support would continue," said Hartleb.

Faculty member joins GED advisory committee

Northern Essex Community College GED Chief Examiner Cynthia Therrien of Danvers has been appointed to the state's GED Advisory Committee.

Therrien has more than eight years of experience in GED test administration, having previously worked at North Shore Community College as the Alternate Examiner.

Therrien is a graduate of UMass Amherst where she obtained a BA in Communications Studies. She received her Juris Doctor from Western New England College

School of Law in 1994.

Prior to attending law school, she was a staff photographer for General Electric Co. for 10 years, followed by three years working as an assistant for the Program Staff at MassPIRG.

NECC offers GED Preparation classes every semester, in both English and Spanish.

The college administers the GED test three times each year. The newest version of the GED Test, GED 2002 Series, will be released in January 2002.

Budget cuts hurt NECC students

Hartleb says cuts are devastating, worries about early retirement

BY HEATHER GORTON
News Editor

Tuition is raised and positions are frozen due to the current budget cut, and President David Hartleb said he is not hopeful the cuts will be restored.

"This is devastating," Hartleb said, adding that right now, "We are not having much success."

But he has not given up the fight. Hartleb has been to Boston, but unfortunately does not feel as though there will be much change.

As of right now a new budget has been created, and "that will see us through the rest of the year, and the board has approved," Hartleb said in an interview on Dec. 15.

"At this time we are anticipating that our state budget will be \$1.1 million less than the interim plan that we adopted in September," Hartleb stated in a letter to the college community.

According to the letter, the following cuts were made:

- \$90,236 from Education Recourses Materials that support the college's library

- \$226,500 in Developmental Education that fund labs on campus

- \$22,000 in the McNair Fund that assists programs for disadvantaged students at NECC.

"I am also deeply concerned about cuts in other areas of the state budget that provide direct support to NECC students. A 25 percent cut in state financial aid... which provides scholarships for students, most of whom are attending school while working minimum wage jobs and will not be able to continue their education without state support," Hartleb said.

These cuts will have a direct impact on the students and employees of the college.

"We have done many things. One is freeze 14 positions, and a second is raise tuition \$3 per credit," Hartleb said.

Hartleb also said the state has a new early retirement program that many faculty members qualify for.

"We need to figure out who will not be here," he said.

Eligible faculty members have until Feb. 15 to decide if they are going to retire early. This could hurt NECC if many faculty members choose to retire early because the college must send 80 percent of the salary back to the state, Hartleb explained.

"We do have a budget for this year and we will continue to work on the budget for next year," Hartleb said.

“

This is devastating. We are not having much success.

—President David Hartleb

College receives \$600,000 grant for Technology Building

Hartleb says NECC is close to goal of \$2 million

BY NORMA VITALE
Features Editor

Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, and Congressmen John Tierney and Marty Meehan informed Northern Essex over the winter break that NECC received a grant for \$600,000.

This grant will be going toward

the construction of the new Technology Building starting next fall.

The state will be building the center and has already hired an architect for the design of this new addition. The tech center will cost \$9.5 million to build. The state has already paid \$7.5 million toward the center, and the school must raise \$2 million to pay for the rest.

"We have already raised a little over a million," said President David Hartleb in an interview on Jan. 14. "With the grant, all we need left to raise is \$400,000 more."

Hartleb explained that the new

tech center will contain three things:

- New classrooms and computer labs for computer science, tech and graphic design.

- A center for business and industry courses.

- A new conference center that will be able to seat two hundred and fifty people. The old conference center will be given back to the library. Adding new learning labs and installing offices is being considered as well.

The tech center will be located in the front of NECC to the right of the student center.

UMass cuts 95 jobs to cover budget losses

AMHERST (AP) The University of Massachusetts is laying off 95 employees at its flagship Amherst campus, a move officials say will make up about \$3 million in state budget cuts.

Faculty and academic programs are being spared from the cuts that were announced Friday, but the school's child care program that serves about 75 children of UMass employees will be eliminated at the end of the spring semester.

"The university made some very poor choices in dealing with the budget crisis," said Ferd Wulkan, a representative for Local 509 of the Service Employees International Union. The union represents most of the 22 childcare workers being laid off. Forty-three of the union's 1,200 members are getting pink slips, he said.

"This is an attack on working families," Wulkan said.

Other employees being laid off work in maintenance, information technology and security. The uni-

versity is also eliminating fundraising jobs and clerks and secretaries who work in academic departments.

About 5,000 people work at the Amherst campus.

Layoffs will begin Feb. 9 and continue through the end of May. Officials say the school will provide career and personal counseling to workers who are let go.

The cuts come as the Amherst campus struggles with a \$15 million deficit in the \$225 million budget the Legislature handed them in December.

In addition to the layoffs, the campus will cover the shortfall by borrowing from different departments, phasing out some vacant jobs, and raising student fees by \$495, UMass spokeswoman Kay Scanlan said.

Interim chancellor Marcellette Williams said the school had no choice but to make the cuts.

"This is nothing that anyone relishes," Williams said. "This is a

tough thing. This is a very painful day. Not just the day, but the decision."

Williams will meet with labor leaders next week to discuss the layoffs.

Donna Johnson, president of the University Staff Association, said she was not only upset about the layoffs, but the way Williams handled them.

Johnson said the university notified the unions about the layoffs by e-mail an hour after the school issued a news release.

"The people affected should not be the last to know," Johnson said. "And why wait a week to meet with us?"

Williams said the layoffs should not have been a surprise because she announced in December that at least 60 jobs would be cut.

"It's not entirely the university's fault," Wulkan said. "They were stuck with a lousy budget by the Legislature."

Features

**Where Were You
(When The World Stopped Turning)**
By Alan Jackson

Verse:

Where were you when the world stop turning on that September day
Were you in the yard with your wife and children
Or working on some stage in L.A.
Did you stand there in shock at the sight of that black smoke
Rising against that blue sky
Did you shout out in anger, in fear for your neighbor
Or did you just sit down and cry

Did you weep for the children who lost their dear loved ones
And pray for the ones who don't know
Did you rejoice for the people who walked from the rubble
And sob for the ones left below
Did you burst out in pride for the red, white and blue
And the heroes who died just doin' what they do
Did you look up to heaven for some kind of answer
And look at yourself and what really matters

Chorus:

I'm just a singer of simple songs
I'm not a real political man
I watch CNN but I'm not sure I could
Tell you the difference in Iraq and Iran
But I know Jesus and I talk to God
And I remember this from when I was young
Faith, hope and love are some good things He gave us
And the greatest is love

Verse:

Where were you when the world stop turning on that September day
Teaching a class full of innocent children
Or driving down some cold interstate
Did you feel guilty 'cause you're a survivor
In a crowded room did you feel alone
Did you call up your mother and tell her you loved her
Did you dust off that Bible at home

Did you open your eyes, hope it never happened
And you close your eyes and not go to sleep
Did you notice the sunset the first time in ages
Or speak to some stranger on the street
Did you lay down at night and think of tomorrow
Go out and buy you a gun
Did you turn off that violent old movie you're watchin'
And turn on "I Love Lucy" reruns

Did you go to a church and hold hands with some strangers
Stand in line and give your own blood
Did you just stay home and cling tight to your family
Thank God you had somebody to love

Country singer Alan Jackson sings about American Pride

BY AARON FOSS
News Editor

Country singer, Alan Jackson, sings about American Pride

I have always been a huge fan of country music and Alan Jackson has always been a personal favorite of mine. Many of his songs have related to me on a personal level. He appears to be just another regular going through the ups and down motions of life, but has the chance to express himself through his music.

On June 26, 1989, Jackson signed with Arista Records in Nashville. Since then he has had several career milestones, such as being inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 1991. Also recently receiving his fiftieth Country Music Association nomination, and scoring his twenty-ninth #1 hit called "Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning)."

Though he has made 11 albums under the Arista label and had dozens of hits, "Where Were You" has not only his greatest song, but has also become an anthem for America since the attacks against our country on Sept. 11.

As many people have done since the tragedy, Jackson sat down and wrote his feelings about the attacks on paper. He knew he wanted to write a song about the his the attacks, but didn't want it to seem like he was taking advantage of the situation to further his own career.

"Everytime I tried to write something, it just didn't seem right. I've always been real careful about writing or recording 'preachy' songs," said Jackson in an interview with Country Weekly Magazine.

"It went really quick. When I wrote the song I didn't sit down and analyze it, and think about whether

Collins.

"Where Were You" is a song depicting the many reactions to the Sept. 11 attacks. Almost everyone can find a lyric in the song that relates to the emotions they were going through on that horrible day. I have included the lyrics on a sidebar to my story so that anyone reading this article can see for themselves the greatness of this song.

Jackson's website tells of Jackson's sticking to tradition best when they say, "In a climate ripe with stylistic turnover, Alan Jackson's artistic character has been defined by simply remaining true to himself. Alan Jackson has always understood that country music is about connection—a contemporary connection to the icons of the genre. It is this respect for both the music and lives which encompass it, that has made him one of today's most beloved artists"

I strongly recommend picking up a copy of Alan Jackson new CD "Drive"

which went on sale Jan 15. The album features both a studio version of "Where Were You" as well as the live version from the Country Music Awards shows. Even if you are not a fan of country music, this song will touch you. It will join the ranks of Lee Greenwood's "Proud to Be An American" and "America the Beautiful" as a song that represents the freedom of this country and the sense of pride we all feel to be Americans.

it was politically correct or if it was gonna get played on the radio. It was just there. I just wrote what I felt."

Jackson debuted the song at the Country Music Awards on Nov. 7 and the next day hundreds of radio stations across the country had downloaded the television broadcast and added the song to their play lists. "Where Were You" rose to #1 faster than any country single in the past four years. The lyrics were even entered into the Congressional Record by Georgia Rep. Mac



photo courtesy of alanjackson.com

NORMA VITALE, FEATURES EDITOR



Hi, I'm Norma Vitale. You've probably seen me around school. I'm the little Goth girl who doesn't talk much, but I'll be speaking a lot more since now I'm the new

Features Editor on the Observer. I've been going to NECC for three years. I'm majoring in Photography and now Journalism, which I have totally fallen in love with. My likes are sewing, dancing, antiques, walking in the woods, literature, photography and exploring abandoned and haunted places. To answer your question "am I single"? Sorry boys, I'm taken. Other than that there's not much else, except if you have any questions, stories or if you would like to contribute articles, you can contact me at Faeriemagik@darksites.com.

Have a good semester and eternal bliss.

No words to describe her

BY AARON FOSS
News Editor

This February, "The Vagina Monologues" makes its way to the Top Notch Theater. The great thing about this production will be that it is being directed by NECC student Charlotte Gulezian. Why was Charlotte chosen to direct?

"I asked last the theater department last fall if I could direct a version of 'The Vagina Monologues' but they said no. Then I come back this semester and Jim Murphy and Susan Sanders asked me if I'd like to direct it and I jumped at the chance," said Gulezian.

Gulezian is now in her third semester at Northern Essex and plans to major in Philosophy. She has always been involved in the theater and loves to act. Her first production at NECC as, Gwendolen Fairfax, in "The Importance of Being Earnest."

When asked about what it is like to direct "The Vagina Monologues", Gulezian could not stop talking about the production and her exuberance came right to the surface.

"I want people to be able to laugh and be comfortable with what we are talking about," said Gulezian.

"I want them to learn something

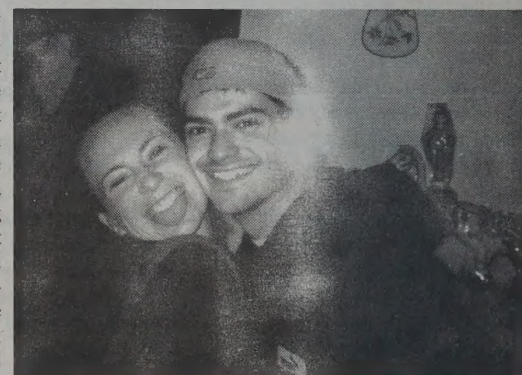
and I want the show to change them the way it first changed me when I saw it. It made me so much more comfortable with my vagina and just talking about it. I thought it would be hard directing other students, but they've been really cool and respectful because I respect them. Directing this play has been really hard, but fun."

Several of the players, known as the "Vagina Vixens", expressed only great things about working with Charlotte at the helm of the show.

"Charlotte is a wonderful director. She is very detailed and very passionate about her work," said Alicia Antonelli. Antonelli worked with Gulezian before in "The Most Massive Woman Wins", a student directed one-act that Gulezian directed in the spring of 2001.

Ryan Reynolds is the set designer for the production, as well as Gulezian's live-in boyfriend.

"Dude, there are not enough



Aaron Foss photo

"The Vagina Monologues" director Charlotte Gulezian and her boyfriend Ryan Reynolds.

words to describe this girl. She makes me feel whole. She's just what I needed in my life," said Reynolds.

"I think she's great. She's inventive, creative, very friendly, and easy to work with. Everyone is really glad that she's directing the show because she is so much fun to work with and we love her," said Jack Payne, who plays the Eve Ensler role in the production.

Gulezian said all proceeds from "The Vagina Monologues" will be donated to V-Day, a charity to prevent violence against women.

Send us ideas for features and news stories.

observer@necc.mass.edu

Features

The history and joys of teas

Tea has a long and interesting history

BY NORMA VITALE
Features Editor

Tea has often been considered a drink to take during a cold, but would you believe tea is also used as a stress-reliever, an entertainment and as a dessert drink. Tea has come a long way with a 5,000-year-old history.

Discovery of tea

The old ancient Chinese legend says the discovery of tea happened by accident when some tealeaves fell into the emperors' pot of boiling water. In 2737 B.C. The Chinese emperor, Shen Nong, was walking with his court and stopped to boil some water to drink. Some leaves from a near tea bush blew into the water turning it a brownish color. Shen Nong found this interesting, tasted the water and found it refreshing.

The tea trade

Chinese Buddhist monks started trading with tealeaves and tea seeds around 800 AD this new drink soon became the biggest hit worldwide. Became highly popular in Europe and America in the middle last 1600's. In England, tea replaced its national drink, which was ale and the new popularity of



Norma Vitale photo

Served in hand-painted Royal Doulton, tea is considered elegant and an entertainment.

chocolate and coffee. Demand for tea came high and so was the cost of tea. Over \$100 per pound. Though cost for tea was high, it was not only made available for the upper classes, but also made affordable for the middle and lower classes to enjoy.

The power of tea

We do not consider tea as that much of an importance now a days. But tea had great importance in his-

tory. Without tea we would not have that middle meal out of the day called lunch. The two biggest meals were breakfast and dinner.

The idea of drinking tea in the afternoon brought finger sandwiches, tea cakes and fruit dishes. Tea also brought the idea of tips during the early Victorian era. Tipping the service at coffeehouses and tea gardens would go "To Insure Prompt Service". So that your tea would

arrive quicker and hot.

The tipping system is used today in businesses where people provided service for you such as restaurants, taxis, bars, etc.

One of the acts leading to the Revolutionary War was due to tea: The Boston Tea Party, when hundreds of pounds of tea were dumped into Boston Harbor as a rebellion against England and her power over America.

Different Teas

English Breakfast, Earl Grey, Darjeeling, green tea, and orange pekoe are some of the well-known teas many people enjoy. There are three types of teas: black tea, green tea and oolong tea. Herbal teas are teas that have no true tealeaves and are made with certain flowers and herbs. Since there are no tea leaves in herbal teas, certain herbs are used as a substitute to help hold the other herbs flavors together. These herbs help keep the freshness of the tea and won't give it a watery taste. They include mint, peppermint, lemon grass, peels licorice root, gingerroot and black pepper.

Chai tea is one of the most popular teas served in coffee shops and cafes today. Like espresso, cappuccino and mocha latte, chai is a dessert drink. It can be served hot or iced with whip cream, cinnamon and nutmeg.

Tea shops and rooms in Massachusetts

If you're into teas these are some tea places you might want to check out sometime:

- Boston Tea Parlor in Bedford
- Devon Tea Room in West Dennis
- Dunbar Tea Shop in Sandwich
- Tealux (Tea Bar and Café) located at Newbury Street, Copley Square, Coolidge Corner and Harvard Square.
- Tea Shopp in Mashpee
- Wenham Tea House in Wenham

Doctoral study helped dean appreciate McDonald's

Dr. Grolnic joins NECC this year as new dean

When Dr. Susan Grolnic wrote her doctoral thesis, she had one foot in the halls of Harvard University and the other in one of America's other hallowed institutions: the fast food restaurant.

Her Harvard University doctoral dissertation, completed last spring, was titled Informal Learning in the "Workplace: What can be learned doing a McJob?" In the case study, she interviewed hourly workers and observed them on the job at two McDonald's restaurants in the southern states. The subjects also completed a questionnaire. The study sought to discover what skills and competencies front-line fast-food workers learn, and how they learn them.

"This is where America learns to work," says Dr. Grolnic, an Arlington resident who joined

NECC this academic year as the Assistant Dean of Business, Math, Science & Technology. She cites studies that show seven percent of Americans work at McDonald's at some point in their lives. She says there is a misperception that McDonald's jobs don't provide learning opportunities that can carry over elsewhere, but the reality is much different. While McDonald's offers considerable formal training, employees can benefit greatly from informal learning on the job.

"Most people don't believe there are learning opportunities in routine work, or problem solving in routine work," she says. "The fact is, at McDonald's people are always being challenged."

While these jobs may be disdainfully labeled as "low-wage and low-skill" positions. The reality is employees quickly learn both the skills needed to do the job, how to juggle responsibility and solve problems while honing their interpersonal skills. The employee at the drive-through window, for example, may be listening to orders in his headset,



New Assistant Dean Dr. Susan Grolnic researched McDonald's as a wonderful learning job.

typing in the order, bringing up another customer's order, putting condiments and the right combination of food in the customer's bag, and making change, all simultaneously.

While he or she might be doing a routine job, such as making hamburgers, he or she might learn to solve problems by deviating from that routine "in response to contex-

tual factors," Grolnic notes. For example, recognizing that McDonald's values speed in filling orders, a worker might vary from the task of cooking an item to help do it faster.

"They were adept at reading signals from managers and one of the owner/operators that it was more important to get product out fast than it was to follow the quality

guidelines."

Twenty-five of the 28 hourly employees Grolnic interviewed cited speed as a priority. One said, "If you are slow, you're going to have a hard time working here. If you don't learn fast, you're going to have a hard time working here. If you can't do more than two things at once, you're going to have a hard time working here..."

Grolnic also found that employees learn and develop interpersonal skills while sometimes, in her words, "Dealing with customers who do things that would blow your mind."

In one instance, an employee described how she would handle an unruly customer - in this case one who lied about not receiving food that had been ordered. "I just want to yell at them sometimes and say, 'I know you're lying because I know I put that cheeseburger in your bag,' but really you just got to give it to them and say, 'I'm sorry. I forgot,'" the employee told her.

When asked if it's difficult to react so accommodatingly, the employee explained, "You have to hold back a lot of anger."

Grolnic, a lifelong educator, feels that her case study supports the hypothesis that learning is situated, and suggests that schools may learn many things from discovering how workplace learning takes place.

"I came away from my research quite impressed by McDonald's," she says. "And I'm a vegetarian."

“

"The fact is, at McDonald's people are always being challenged."

-Dr. Susan Grolnic

Features

Meet WAAF's 'Mistress Carrie'

By GAYLE SIMONE
Editor

I was thrilled when WAAF mid-morning DJ, Mistress Carrie, was shopping at the local Home Depot. I walked over to her to tell her how much I loved her show and was more than thrilled when she agreed to be interviewed.

On Oct. 25, I drove down to Brighton, where the WAAF studios are located and met up with Mistress Carrie in the lobby. She was wearing a black sweatshirt and jeans, her long, straight, purple hair hung down to the middle of her back.

As we walked down the hall to her office, I was in awe. Autographed posters and gold albums of my favorite bands hung on the walls. New night-time DJ Jay Ferrara, was on the phone and Music Director Mike Brangaforti was creating play lists for each DJ. Carrie introduced me to each one of them and explained the importance of the play lists.

"It's so when Rocko comes in, he doesn't play the same Metallica song I played the hour before," Carrie said. "It also gives us the allotted time for commercials."

When asked why she decided to go into broadcasting, Carrie explains she needed to find something to make a living. "It's more the music than anything. I knew I wanted to do something with music. And I can't sing."

After two years at Newbury College in Brookline, Carrie finished her degree at Framingham State College, while interning for WAAF the entire time. She has never left. She interned for seven years and has been a DJ for three years. Her first shift was 7 p.m. to midnight. When, mid-morning DJ, John Osborne left, Carrie was



Jay Ferrara photo

Gayle Simone, right, hanging out with her favorite DJ 'Mistress Carrie' at the WAAF studios.

moved to his shift. "I love it, I get my nights free now," said Carrie.

As far as where she wishes her career to go, she'd love to stay at WAAF. "WAAF is the best in the country," Carrie said. "I'd love to stay here until the day I die. But I can't see myself doing this when I'm 50."

Carrie has a lot of reasons to love her job. She can wear whatever she wants, goes to any show she likes, and gets all the free music she wants. "It's definitely better than 'working' for a living," Carrie said. "I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

In the past three years on the air, Carrie has had the opportunity to meet many bands. When I asked her favorite, she couldn't decide. "There

are so many big shows, like OZZFEST and Locobazooka," Carrie said. "When you get mixed members of bands it's the best. They just hang out and be themselves, you get some of the best interviews that way."

During the Sept. 11, tragedy, WAAF's general manager made the decision to not play any music or commercials. "All four stations at Entercom Boston did that," Carrie said. "We were the first out of the four and I was very proud to work for the company that day."

The tragedy affected Carrie personally; her father is a firefighter. "For what we do, I think we did a very good job," Carrie said. "We really surprised a lot of people with our intelli-

gence. I felt so bad when we started to play music again, but we had to. Our job is to inform people, but it's also to entertain them."

Carrie's advice to anyone interested in broadcasting is to go to college and do internship. "Going to college doesn't get you a job," Carrie said. "An internship doesn't get you a degree. You need both. After the Sept. 11, tragedy, I realized just how important my education was. When you speak about the world, people can tell if you aren't educated."

Mistress Carrie is the only female DJ at the station. "It's interesting, I like it though," Carrie said. "I prefer to be the only girl, you have to earn the guy's respect. I love it, it's like

having a bunch of big brothers."

One thing that Mistress Carrie's fans know about her is she has a huge Pez fetish. "They are so harmless," Carrie said. "Just fun, what every kid has in common. It reminds me of my childhood." Carrie has collected over 400 dispensers and is building a display case in a casket to put in her house.

Carrie said that she can't complain about people recognizing her. "When people come up to you and say, 'I love your show', how could you get mad at that?," Carrie said. "When people stop doing that, that's when it'll hurt."

What she doesn't like about meeting her fans is when they ask her personal questions like, "Where do you live?" or "What is your last name?" Questions as so make her feel uncomfortable because her fans do not need that information.

One of Carrie's worst memories of meeting a fan was when she was on a first date. "The waiter just sat right down next to me in the booth, completely ignoring the person I was with," Carrie said. "What was worse, it really did bother the person I was with."

Carrie really hates when people think they know everything about her. "I really hate being stereotyped," Carrie said. "I pride myself on being diverse. I really hate it when someone thinks they have me all figured out." Her favorite word is "no," Carrie said, "As soon as someone says 'no' to me, I do it."

Although Carrie had to get used to people recognizing her in public, her most peaceful time is when she is sky-diving or at home with her dogs. "I do yoga at home," Carrie said. "I really do what I can to relax."

Hemp, not to be smoked

By KORY WAGNER
Photo Editor/Staff Reviewer

With the fast depletion of our natural resources and our current economic decline, more alternative and reliable resources should be looked at. Hemp, a virtually untapped resource for many years, could be an option that we should take more seriously.

Most people's knowledge of hemp is often confused with the drug marijuana. Many are skeptics about the subject of hemp products being used in every day functions. Little do people know that there are many major differences between the two. Hemp is from a species of plants known as "cannabis sativa". The hemp strain of this species is known as "cannabis sativa L". It distinctly resembles the marijuana plant, which is where most of the confusion lies. Hemp carries less than 1 percent of THC, (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), and the mind-altering ingredient in marijuana, making it harmless to humans.

The hemp plant outweighs the uses and value of the marijuana plant. Being able to be used in the production of fiber, food, building materials, cosmetics, cleaners, paint and many other produces.

The first use of hemp dates back to the time of our first president, George Washington. Having hemp fields on his own plantation, he understood the versatility of the crop. According to the North American Industrial Hemp Council web site (www.NAIHIC.org), Thomas Jefferson used hemp-made paper to draft the declaration of independence.

Hemp products have been used for many years. For example, the navy used hemp-made sails for their ships. It was the only material that could hold up to the sea spray without deteriorating. Unlike tree-pulp made paper, the decomposition rate is far slower.

Cosmetics are another product you might not think hemp would be useful in. Most cosmetics use a mineral or petroleum base; this material is derived through fossilized material. While hemp based cosmetics are made with natural, living material, which in essence should be better for your skin.

Hemp can also be found as the main ingredient in building material. By compressing hemp fibers together you create a strong, durable material that can resist rotting, rodents, insects and fire. Some of the building materials that are made with hemp are cement, flooring, plaster, plywood and roofing. Even the material used

to clean and paint these surfaces can be made out of hemp.

Another major product that hemp is useful for is something that we all need to survive, food. According to, about hemp.com, hemp seed has the most proteins and essential fatty acids that are needed in a proper daily diet. Using the hemp seeds as a source of food and nutrition are endless. Everything from pizza to beer can be made from the hemp seed.

One of the biggest findings about hemp is that it can be used to make a more safer and cost efficient fuel. By using the stems of the plant we can create a diesel fuel known as biodiesel. This alternative to petroleum based fuel, is much safer to transport and increases the life of a diesel engine. Environmentally, biodiesel contains no sulfur, making it far safer for the environment than using regular gasoline. For sometime now, many European countries have already been using hemp-based fuel.

With the almost endless list of uses of hemp, the question still remains, "why we are not using it in mass production". Slowly, the United States are gaining more awareness of its depletion of natural resources. State by state, bills are being passed so that the mass production of hemp-made products a part of our everyday lives.

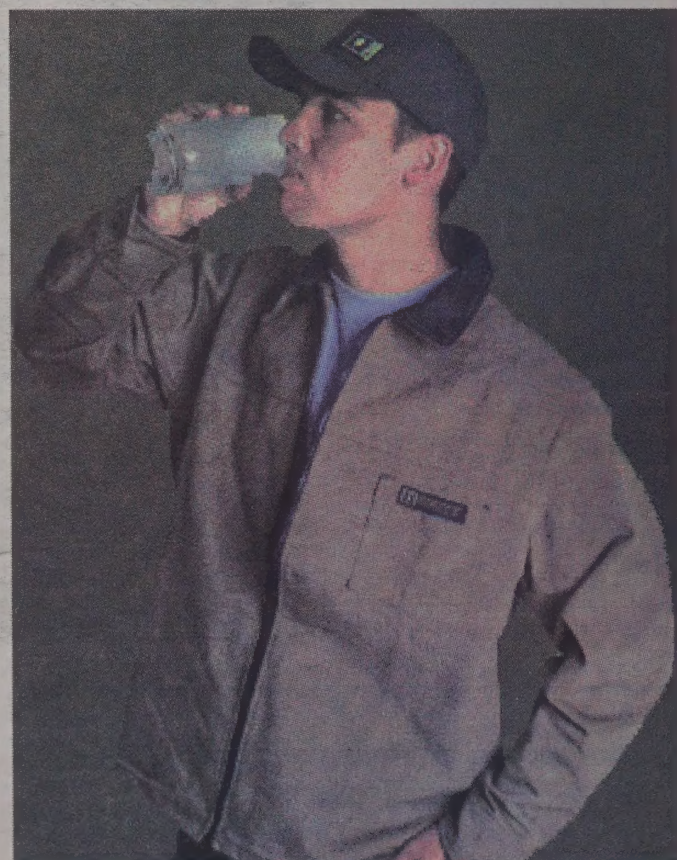
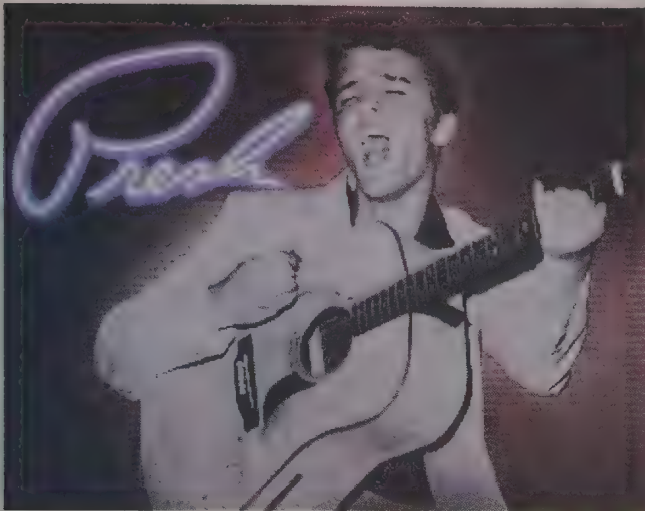


photo courtesy hempys.com

Hemp-made coat from hempys.com, which sells other hemp-made products.

Elvis and The Beatles: Where rock began



BY MELISSA GRAVES
Arts & Entertainment Editor
AND TIM SILVA
Sports Editor

Throughout the course of history as the decades roll by, one constant has been music. Thousands of musicians have tried their hands in the music industry but only a select few have stood the test of time. We know them as the Legends of rock. Faithful fans will continue to play their music until the end of time. As AC/DC states "Rock and roll ain't noise pollution and it will never die." These legends have been role models. They have been able to introduce a sound and

style so unique and diverse along with their inspiring lyrics that has touched people in every era. Starting with the "King of rock n' roll" and The Beatles these two legends began it all and will go down in history as different groups rise and grow old.

The legends of rock will always be endeared by millions, as the new generation emerges and a new era of music begins. If you look at many bands today you will notice that they give thanks to the many legends that have inspired them and will continue to do so as new music appears.

The king of rock Elvis Presley began his career in 1954, developing a sound and style that uniquely combined his diverse musi-

cal influences. He was able to challenge the social and racial barriers of his time. Elvis introduced and ushered in a whole new era of American music and popular culture. With his talent, good looks, sensuality, and good humor these characteristics endeared him to millions of fans. To this day his name still goes down in history. Elvis's legacy will be that he broke down the barrier between white musicians and black musicians allowing the two to co-exist.

Elvis was one of the first artists to receive national recognition for playing music normally reserved for African Americans. Elvis Presley's contribution to rock and roll will never be underestimated which is why he continues to be the reigning king of rock and roll.

On the heels of the "king's" success, four lads from Liverpool arrived in American in Feb. of 1964 and changed the face of popular music forever. Beginning with their appearance on the Ed Sullivan show right through to their famous final performance on a roof top in London, The Beatles captivated America the way no band had before or ever will. In the early days songs such as "Love Me Do", "I Want to Hold Your Hand", and "She Loves You" started a teen fascination that the affects of are still felt to this day.

Beginning in 1966 with the "Rubber Soul" album the Beatles introduced a whole new genre of music. Using such things as the man-

Legends of Rock n' Roll

dolin, feedback, and synthesizing John, Paul, George, and Ringo revolutionized the art of making albums. But nothing could have prepared the music world for what came next. In 1967 the Beatles unleashed "Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Band", which opened doors for musicians that had previously been thought unreachable. Even though classics like "The White Album", "Magical Mystery Tour", and "Let It Be" followed, the band never reached a peak like they did with "Sgt. Pepper."

Tensions in the band, particular between John Lennon and Paul

McCartney, spelled the end for the Fab Four. Disbanding in 1969, all four Beatles enjoyed continued success with solo projects. Now, over thirty years later the Beatles still have a grip on the world of music. Passed down from generation to generation the group still influences bands to this day.

Their influence has been felt going all the way back to the moment they first set foot on American soil. Back home in Britain two teenagers met at a train station in Blackpool. Their names were Keith Richards and Mick Jagger.

This article is the first in a continuing series on the legends of rock.



There Were Wires spark the Middle East

Hailing from Boston, local rockers take over the stage

BY KORY WAGNER
Photo Editor/Staff Reviewer

After hearing the band "There Were Wires", I was intrigued with how good this band would be live.

Walking into the small 57 person capacity room, last Wednesday upstairs at the Middle East Night Club I was expecting to be a witness to yet another hardcore/metal show and in essence that's what it was. "There Were Wires," the band a friend had told me to check out, took the stage and showed me that they could rock.

Hailing from Boston these five local rockers took the stage and delivered a performance that was second to none. Projecting an arsenal of sound through your body as they played is their key to success. Their music is a gracious blend of fast dirty metal with the classic Boston style of hardcore, all brought together with a raspy growling voice. It's not the most original thing that I have heard, this band is able to do it with their own unique style.

Their live performance is one so energetic and infectious. This band was able to get the crowd going more feverously with every song they played. Members of the band completely get into their



Kory Wagner photo

There Were Wires delivering a performance that was second to none.

music. It shows, by the way they thrash around on the stage with such intensity. Seeing the crowd singing with such enthusiasm, the singer would thrust his microphone at them, enabling them to yell a lyric or two. The crowd grew wild with this opportunity doing everything possible to get a chance even if it called for piling up on top of each other.

The crowd was just enthralled by the new songs as if they had already heard them a hundred times before. I was amazed at the enthusiasm that the crowd was projecting toward this band. The crowd loved what this band had to offer.

This show, being the first time the band has ever taken the stage at a club before, rocked like they have played there many times. "It's great to play a club but nothing beats a basement," the singer professes, since the band is used to playing venues such as basements.

Most of what I know about this band is what I have heard word of mouth. Their self-titled CD does not give the band any justice whatsoever. Their live show is where they excel, and I can attest to that.

They are still getting their act together, so to say, with a new split seven inch record with the band "Moment," due out by the end of this month, and hopefully it will be followed with some sort of tour, this band is definitely one to check out.

“It's great to play a club but nothing beats a basement.”

—Vocalist, There Were Wires



Upcoming Shows

Wed. Jan. 23rd

- Caged Heat, Three Day Threshold @ Abbey Lounge
- 5LB Brown, Fred's Bowling Ball @ Bill's Bar
- Josh Ritter, Hilken Mancini & Chris Colbourn, Stringbuilder @ Lizard Lounge

Thurs. Jan. 24th

- The Weissstronauts @Bar 608
- Detachment Kit, The Takers @ Middle East Upstairs-Cambridge
- Model Kit, Gatsby, Father Grundy, Flexie @ TT Bears

Fri. Jan. 25th

- Cancer Conspiracy(cd release) Rise Park, Carrigan @ Middle East Upstairs- Cambridge
- Spank(feat mems of Deep Bannana Blackout) Club D'elf, Raq @ Middle East Downstairs- Cambridge
- Zout, Chris Canty Band, South 16(duo) Leigh @ Skybar

Sat. Jan. 26th

- Moonraker, Illuminada, DJ Seishi/Reazon @ Middle East Downstairs
- Lady Killers, The Stumble, Spike Emory @ Skybar

For more information on these shows, see the listings in the Observer.

MELISSA GRAVES, A&E Editor



As the new Arts & Entertainment Editor, I, Melissa Graves, majoring in Journalism here at NECC, will bring diversity and interest to the NECC Observer. I'll keep you up to date on all entertainment in the world, keep the legends of rock series rolling (feel free to make a request on bands you feel are a great part of rock legends if you want to contribute.) All entertainment events concerning NECC will be covered and recognized no doubt. Let's live up this new year 'cause- "every little thing is gonna be alright."

You can contact me at melissam-graves@mediaone.net.

Vagina Monologues coming your way

Charlotte Gulezian brings famous play to NECC theater

By MELISSA GRAVES
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Vagina Monologues? The name alone catches your attention. I'm here to inform you that during the month of February 2002 the hit play Vagina Monologues will be brought to NECC's Top Notch Theatre for surrounding communities to experience.

The play is a compilation of real women's stories that are touching, genuine, diverse, and above all hilariously funny! The show will carry you through Eve Ensler's interviews on vaginas from all over the globe. Poignant and life changing, you will never think of a vagina in the same way again after seeing this play.

Charlotte Gulezian a student attending NECC in Haverhill, has decided to take Vagina Monologues into her own hands and bring this outrageously funny play to the school for everyone in this area to enjoy. The original just recently finished showing in Boston and was a great success.

The V-Day Worldwide Initiative

or V-Day was born in 1998 as an outgrowth of Vagina Monologues. V-Day's mission is to end violence against women by increasing awareness through events and the media by raising funds to support organizations that are working to ensure safety of women everywhere. In 3 years V-Day has donated more than one million dollars to organizations that fight against women worldwide.

Vagina Monologues was a group of women from New York including the playwright/ performer Eve Ensler, founded V-Day. The first V-Day event held in New York at the Hammerstein Ballroom featuring Whoopi Goldberg, Calista Flockhart, Susan Sarandon, and Glenn Close. The event raised \$150,000.

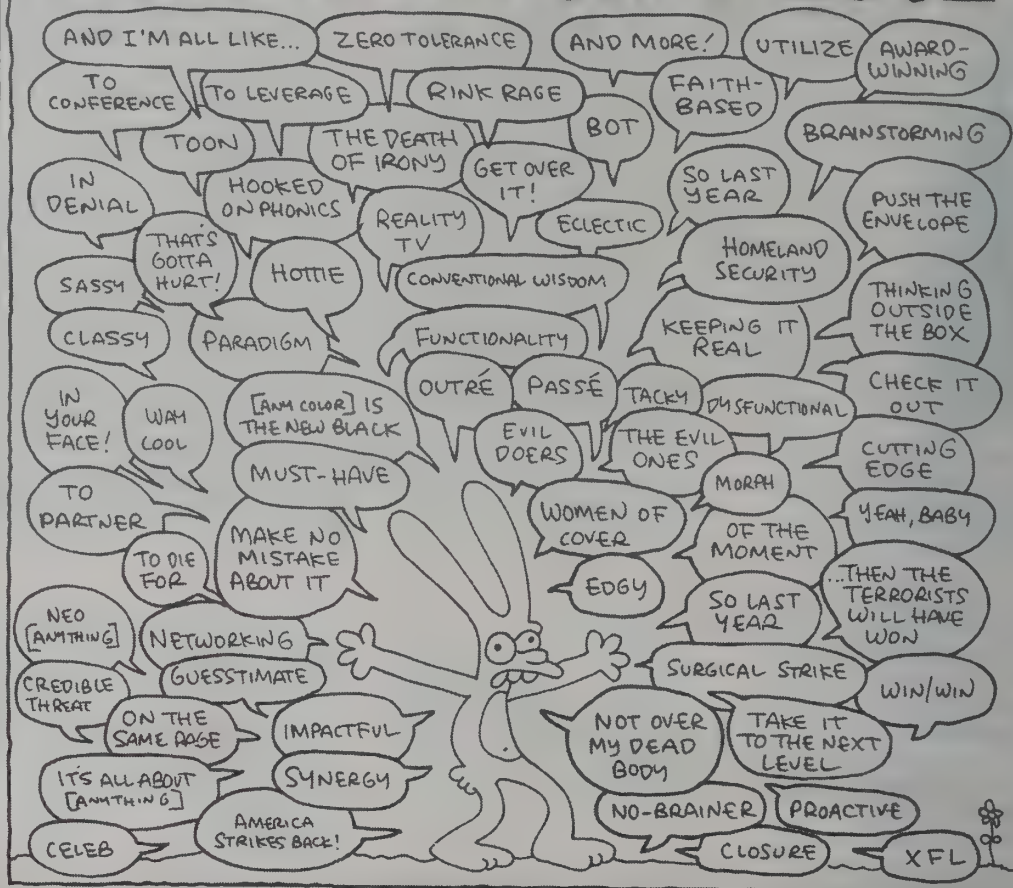
One thing that needs to be brought to attention is that V-Day is not an organization, which means it has no expenses. V-Day pays only three consultants and is run almost entirely by volunteers. Eve Ensler has never received payment from V-Day for all of her work, which shows her dedication to the cause. As a result of this non-organizational form V-Day is able to give away 85 percent of all funds raised.

If you are curious to find out any other info. Concerning this play, such as interest in becoming a volunteer, contact Charlotte Gulezian at 1-(603) 362-6533.

LIFE IN HELL

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FORBIDDEN WORDS 2002

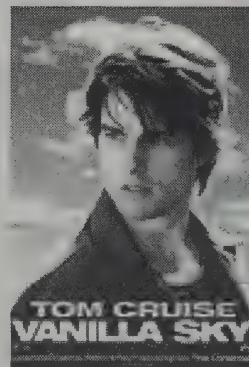


Movie takes mind to the breaking point

REVIEW

By MELISSA GRAVES
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Imagine living your life not knowing when you're awake or asleep. David Ames (Tom Cruise) is in for one roller coaster ride that will take him through his nightmares and dreams as he tries to live a life not knowing what is real and what does not exist. David is a successful and wealthy owner of a magazine business that he inherited from his father. He suspects the seven chairmen (in which he dubs as the "seven dwarves") of secretly wishing for him to be replaced. David grants his relationships with as little care as he does his job. His "wannabe" girlfriend Julie (Cameron Diaz) becomes emotionally broken when she learns David's heart truly belongs to Sophia (Penelope Cruz) who to David is the one true love. With unspoken anger and filled with hurt and confusion Julie invites David for a ride to come to understandings. With a sudden outburst of rage while they're driving, Julie drives them both off the road to a horrifying fall. Although Julie died, David survived with a disfigured face which once was perfect, but was now permanently ruined David is the one to experience something no one has before. This is when the movie starts to twist and turn. Hiding his disturbing face under a latex mask and incarcerated in prison for a murder he does not remember committing. He is convinced that the "seven dwarves" set him up, a point that McCabe (Kurt Russell) a sympathet-



ically is reality and what is a dream? This movie is very peculiar because it makes such drastic changes when you least expect it. Sending you into this mental warp zone, then everything is back to normal.

This is definitely a movie you need to follow closely. The actors portrayed throughout this movie played their part with great skill and kept you completely involved. Not once was there a dull moment. I would describe this movie as the epic tale of David Ames. This movie did have room for improvement due to the immense confusion that I did experience a few times. Not fully understanding it but how it left you surprisingly shocked.

I have to admit that Vanilla Sky has been the best movie that I have seen since the new year has begun. I do recommend it to everyone with an open mind, especially if you have a good imagination.

Rating this movie from one to 10, I would give it an eight. So if you get an opportunity, Vanilla Sky is a movie worthwhile experiencing.

Auditions for 'Rumors' are Feb. 6

The Top Notch Players will be holding auditions for "Rumors" by Neil Simon, on Wednesday, Feb. 6 in the Top Notch Theatre (3rd floor Spurk Building) at 6 p.m.

The production will run the first two weekends in April. There are roles for five women and five men in the production. All students full or part time are welcome to audition. No experience is necessary nor is it necessary for one to be taking a theatre class to be cast in the production.

The story: Four couples are at the house of a deputy New York City mayor and his wife to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary. The party never begins because the host has shot himself in the head (it's only a flesh wound) and his wife is missing.

His lawyer's cover-up gets progressively more difficult to sustain as the other guests arrive and nobody can remember who has been told what about whom.



Aaron Foss photo

Three members of the cast Vagina Monologues rehearse a scene in the Top Notch Theater last Wednesday night. From left: Jack Payne, Sammie Woodfin and Alicia Antonelli.

Arts & Entertainment

off the mark

by Mark Parisi



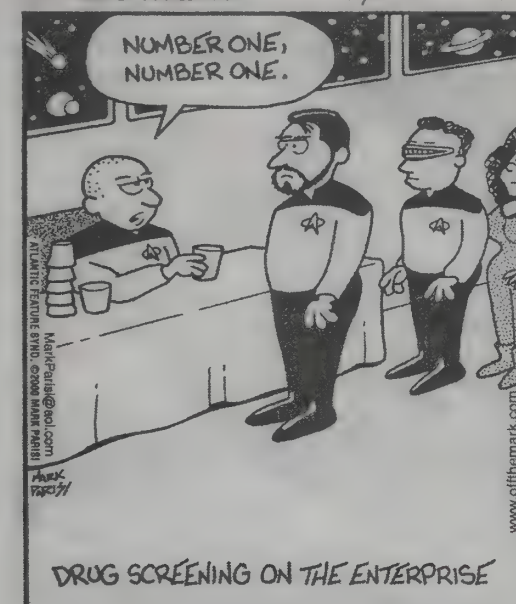
off the mark

by Mark Parisi



off the mark

by Mark Parisi



Church auctions off Paul Revere's silver

BOSTON (AP) Christie's auction house put a price on the priceless on Friday with the sale of two silver beakers that Paul Revere crafted in 1753 and that a Boston church put on the market to pay for restoration.

The Arlington Street Church received \$221,000—less the auctioneer's fee—for the beakers, the earliest work of Revere's ever put on the market. A third beaker was expected to be sold by the end of this weekend.

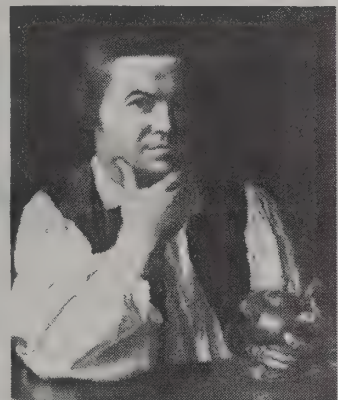
The church decided to sell the Revere beakers, as well as 18 other silver artifacts that fetched \$115,000, to pay off the half-million dollar shortfall in the \$1.7 million restoration effort for the venerable church.

"This is always a sad decision to make, and it's frequently an agonizing one," said John Hurley, information director for the Unitarian Universalist Association, of which the Arlington Street Church is a member.

The Arlington Street Church is not the only congregation that has sold off pieces of church silver. Last year, Quincy's United First Parish Unitarian Church sold its colonial-era silver collection to pay for roof repairs, receiving almost a million dollars more than expected.

William Fowler, director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, questioned whether churches are doing a disservice to history by selling artifacts intended to be a "symbol of belief."

"They weren't given as simply artifacts to be sold off," Fowler said generally of churches' decisions to sell silver. "They need to think of the donor's intent. Is the silver the



equivalent of the stock portfolio? I don't think so."

Last January, the United First Parish Unitarian Church sold its collection of wine cups, double-handled "caudle cups" and a tankard that are some of the earliest pieces of American-made silver in existence.

The collection, which was expected to fetch between \$900,000 and \$1.3 million, sold \$2.7 million, helping the church pay off \$1.7 million in repairs.

Descendants of John Adams and John Quincy Adams, who were both congregation members and gave the church its nickname as "the Church of the Presidents," at first resisted the sale and tried to

find other means to raise the needed funds.

Harold Worthley, head librarian at the Congregational Library in Boston, said a church's silver is not consecrated, but is only used for a higher purpose.

"It's simply a means of dispensing bread and grape juice to the congregation," he told The Boston Globe.

Is the silver the equivalent of the stock portfolio?

—William Fowler
director,
Mass. Historical Society

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY DAVID LEVINSON WILK

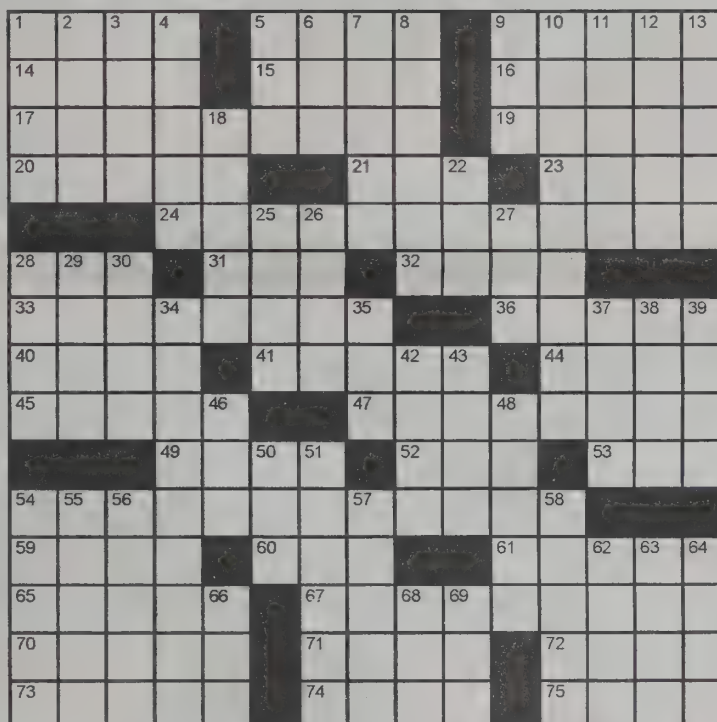
Answers, Page 14

Across

1. Region
5. Andy of the funnies
9. Expect
14. Best man's charge
15. Buckeye's home
16. Dial on a television set
17. With 24-, 41-, 54-, and 67-Across, a self-starter's axiom
19. Russell of "Gladiator"
20. Live's companion
21. AP alternative
23. Word of comparison
24. See 17-Across
28. Sitter's handful
31. Lance of the bench
32. Sewing case
33. Stay with, in a race
36. Dough raiser
40. It towers over Taormina
41. See 17-Across
44. Barrie pirate
45. Lamb Chop enlivener Lewis
47. Per
49. Greek god of war
52. _____ Lanka
53. One of four in Mississippi
54. See 17-Across
59. "Woe _____"
60. "Exodus" character
61. Train station
65. Transparent, like a fabric
67. See 17-Across
70. Nearing the hour
71. Depict
72. White-tailed eagle
73. Smart-mouthed
74. Exam for a young Johnnie Cochran
75. Sharp as a tack

Down

1. Seed cover
2. Widespread
3. "Orinoco Flow" singer



copyright, 2002, David Levinson Wilk

4. Prefix with phobia
5. Animal on a Ben & Jerry's container
6. "I get it!"
7. Playboy centerfold
8. TV dinner fare
9. U.N.C. is in it
10. Most deserving
11. Western airline
12. Des Moines native
13. Current style
18. Not with it
22. Acct. earnings
25. Coup d' _____
26. Crazy, in Cuernavaca
27. Fawkes of Elizabethan England
28. Alibi _____ (excuse makers)
29. Amphetamine prefix
30. Elizabeth in "La Bamba"
34. Toucan Sam's smaller cousins

35. Squeeze (out)
37. Female friend, in France
38. Grad sch. classes
39. Pro shop bagful
42. Little effort
43. Fraction of a field
46. It may be money in the bank: Abbr.
48. One who prays to Vishnu
50. Airport posting: Abbr.
51. Sunday walk
54. Attendance sheets
55. Milo of "The Verdict"
56. Signs
57. Old stereotypes
58. Moore's co-star in "10"
62. Cut back
63. Writer Sarah _____ Jewett
64. Many Feds
66. Siegfried's partner
68. Singer Sumac
69. Ottawa's prov.

Make your voice heard

Drop off your letters at our newsroom, F129, Student Center or email us: observer@necc.mass.edu

Kristin Bell, H&H Editor



Hello, my name is Kristin Bell. I am currently about to embark on my last semester here at NECC. The journey so far has been full of new experiences and self-discovery. It has taken some time to find a

direction for my studies, however last semester I found my niche in journalism.

I am excited to be the Editor of the new Health & Happiness section of the Observer. I would love to hear your ideas regarding anything within the topic.

In addition to spending a lot of time in the newsroom, I enjoy taking walks, playing pool and darts, and I also bowl on a league in my free time.

I try to be an optimistic person who looks for the positive aspects within life and dedicate myself to live without regrets and with honesty, inspiration and hope.

HOROSCOPES

BY MISS ANNA

ARIES:

(March 21-April 20)

Tact and foresight will further your career goals. Hard work will pay off sooner than you think. Your family life is changing, a bit more rapidly than you are comfortable with, but the change will be for the good. Express your ideas.

TAURUS:

(April 21 - May 21)

If you've been feeling depressed, ride it out and the feeling will be replaced with the urgency to accomplish tasks you've been putting off for some time. You are full of energy, even aggression, don't overdue it though.

GEMINI:

(May 22 - June 21)

Try to stay centered, because all those around you are in quite a funk. Co-workers are grumpy and your mate wants to squabble. This tension will continue to drain your energy until you take time out for you - pamper yourself and buy something special.

CANCER:

(June 22 - July 23)

It's a pretty uneventful week, don't expect much from those close to you. Resolve financial questions for long and short term investments, easing a loved one's mind. You will accomplish more than expected, despite opposition from a foe.

LEO:

(July 24-August 23)

You are on top of the world both emotionally and physically. Take advantage of the high energy to convince those around you about an idea you've been toying with for sometime. You are surrounded by love, so show you appreciate it. The pace at work is hectic.

VIRGO:

(August 24 - September 23)

Many demands will be made on your time. Watch out just where you spend your energies and with who. Share any dreams with your mate - you are able to read each other's mind. Your evenings are made for romance. Expect a battle of wills in the workplace.

LIBRA:

(September 24 - October 23)

A few authoritarian types may get in your way, so pursue independent projects. Your financial outlook is on the upswing. Pressures at work will probably ease up, and your cheerful mood contagious. Share the passion and romance with your lover.

SCORPIO:

(October 24 - November 22)

Be sure to think before you speak, or you may come off sounding like an opinionated pain in the neck. Take it easy if you're feeling washed out, the flu may be coming on. There's nothing happening at work that can't wait until tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS:

(November 23 - December 21)

This may not be the best time to interact with others. You and your sweetheart experience a clash of egos, so play it cool. If confused about your motives, wait until you are seeing things more clearly to sort out the situation. A vacation is a great idea.

CAPRICORN:

(December 22 - January 20)

The people around you need your help just when you want to hide out and get your own act together, try to at least listen to their problems. Play it cool with colleagues who may demand a confrontation. Any tensions from earlier in the week seem to be gone for good.

AQUARIUS:

(January 21 - February 19)

A friend with problems may need to talk. Laughter in this situation will be the best medicine. A co-worker is looking for a fight, so try to keep a low profile and don't be a target. Make sure to think before you speak, your bluntness may land you in trouble.

PISCES:

(February 20 - March 20)

This week promises to be full of fun, laughter and friendship. All you need to do is be yourself. You may be feeling that everything is against you at work - the obstacles are only temporary. If you accept a new challenge, you can increase your income.

Remember, don't forget your Thank Q's

No matter what you say in the letter, it will be appreciated

BY KRISTIN BELL
Health & Happiness Editor

The holiday season has passed as quickly as it arrived. Many of us enjoyed the perks and pleasures the festivities had to offer such as, getting kissed under the mistletoe, spinning the dreidel, and opening presents. Dick Clark may have been nice enough to make an appearance on New Year's Eve.

This new year brings with it wishes of peace and not war. The events of September 11 were a catalyst for many of us to cherish our family and friends because sadly some day they may not be here.

Reconnecting, saying hello to an old friend, and yes, even writing a thank you not to those that con-



tribute to our happiness is not old-fashioned, in fact extremely timely during this new year.

The time and energy that is exerted while buying a gift, and the thoughtfulness that goes into it, deserve a few minutes of our own time to compose a letter and simply say 'thank you'. You might add how the gift has been used, or what was bought with the generous gift of

money. If no gifts were exchanged than thank the person for spending the time getting together.

Everyone likes to get mail, at least something that doesn't resemble junk mail, so don't put off corresponding with someone any longer. My grandmother once told me that when she gets a letter in her mailbox it makes the long walk to the end of the driveway worth it, and she can't wait to get back to the house to share it with my grandfather. Simple things that take just five minutes, and the cost of a stamp, really can brighten up someone's day.

It may be hard to thank Dick Clark for showing up on New Year's Eve, however we can put that energy into thanking others for their positive contributions that color our lives.

No matter what is said in the letter, it speaks for itself as a token of appreciation and gratitude, emotions we need to be displaying towards one another more often to work towards the goal of peace.

The Kitchen Bell is a-ringin'

BY KRISTIN BELL
Health & Happiness Editor



There are several gimmicks advertised as methods of weight loss. The fact is the only way to lose weight is to burn more calories than are consumed.

That is the bottom line. No "Hollywood Diet", magic pill, supplement or shake will make unwanted pounds disappear. These methods may act as a temporary fix, but the weight usually comes back.

By incorporating healthy eating habits and exercise, the goal of a healthier, trimmer lifestyle may be attained.

Here are some healthy slim down secrets given by SELF magazine:

- A moderate diet is a healthy diet
- One should eat to live-not live to eat
- 'Tis a superstition to insist on a special diet
- Put your fork down between bites
- Seek structured diet support
- Eat breakfast-the most important meal of the day
- Track your intake truthfully
- Weight loss should be one to two pounds per week
- You need to eat every three to four hours
- Work out with weights
- Eat more filling, low calorie foods
- Limit liquid calories
- Color your diet
- Avoid restaurant portion distortion
- 1,500 calories per day equals fewer pounds

Send your favorite recipes to our newest section,

Health & Happiness

observer@necc.mass.edu

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

See puzzle, page 13

A	R	E	A		C	A	P	P		A	W	A	I	T
R	I	N	G		O	H	I	O		C	O	L	O	R
I	F	Y	O	U	W	A	N	T		C	R	O	W	E
L	E	A	R	N		U	P	I		T	H	A	N	
		A	H	E	L	P	I	N	G	H	A	N	D	
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L	O	O	K	A	T	T	H	E	E	N	D			
I	S	M	E		A	R	I			D	E	P	O	T
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T	E	N	T	O		L	I	M	N		E	R	N	E
S	A	S	S	Y		L	S	A	T		K	E	E	N

Health & Happiness

Campus fitness center: You paid for it, so use it

Tuition has more to offer than academic classes

BY KRISTIN BELL
Health & Happiness Editor

There is a frugal alternative to spending tons of money on memberships at local gyms; using the Wellness and Fitness Center here at NECC. All part-time or full-time students are welcome to use the gym at no additional cost. The hours for the gym are 9a.m. to 8p.m. Monday

through Thursday; 9a.m. to 3p.m. Friday; and Saturday 10a.m. to 1p.m.

"It's a better deal," says Rob Parker, coordinator of the Wellness and Fitness Center. Parker also insists that the personal attention you receive at the center is unlike that at local gyms. There are Physical Education and Fitness majors on hand ready to implement their learned skills to benefit students during coached work-outs.

The center offers Stairmasters, lifecycles, treadmills and rowing machines for that cardiovascular workout. For those interested, an exercise incentive program accompanies the work-outs. The program also awards a ticket to those who accom-

plish the following work-outs: walking, running, biking, climbing, rowing or hiking. Guidelines are available at the center.

You may earn as many tickets as you wish. The tickets will be entered into a drawing every other Friday to win a \$25 gift certificate to the

Rockingham Mall. The more tickets earned, the better chance of winning. Only the winner has his tickets removed from the next drawing, all others are carried over to the next drawing. This is a great opportunity to help your body and your wallet.

The Fitness Center also offers

Cyber strength machines and free weights. On Monday, the center shows videos on nutrition, exercise and stress reduction. An open house will be held at the center on January 28 from 11a.m. to 1p.m. Stop by and see what is going on.



An outside view of the Sport and Fitness Center. The Center is dedicated to offering services for College Life and Healthy Living; "Committed to the Physical, Social, and Intellectual Wellness of NECC Students."

“It's a better deal.”

—Rob Parker

A game plan for a Super Bowl bash

(AP) Keep these tips in mind to make sure your Super Bowl party is a winner, a nutritious as well as tasty treat for all your guests.

- Prepare a game plan. Before you head off to the grocery store, draw up your menu and make a list. Don't forget to include items from each food group. Also, be sure to shop early so you don't get tackled by last-minute shoppers in the aisles or shut out of choices.

- Research your options. Don't settle for something that does not fit your party's style. There are many sources for recipe suggestions, including the Web sites of favorite products.

- Take time out to clip coupons and recipe ideas in your newspaper inserts. Organizing means you can save money and entertain successfully so everyone comes out ahead.

- Make variety your goal, to cater for all your guests. When your party includes friends and family of all ages, be sure to include a selection of food and drinks for every taste. Don't forget to include nonalcoholic drinks for designated drivers and expectant mothers, and finger foods for the little ones.

- Warm-up: Do as much preparation as possible the night before, so you can sleep in, work out, or otherwise just enjoy the morning of the big game. There are several make-ahead recipes, including dips, which can be warmed in a crock pot and poured into bread bowls just before your guests arrive. Besides, you don't want to miss all those great pre-game commercials and shows.

Try this very easy-to-prepare

variation of the fans' favorite, chili.

Spicy Chili in a Bread Bowl

For bread bowl and paddles:

16-ounce round loaf sweet bread
1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
Olive oil
Preheat oven to 350 F.

Carve out center core of bread within 1 inch of bottom and sides, keeping bread intact.

Cut reserved bread horizontally into 1/2-inch layers. Brush both sides of layers with olive oil. Cut layers into approximately 18 "paddles" that measure about 3-by-11/2-by-1/2-inch. Place paddles on foil-lined baking sheet; sprinkle with cheese.

Brush inside of bowl lightly with olive oil. Place bowl on separate baking sheet. Bake bowl and paddles in 350 F oven for 11 to 13 minutes, until golden brown and cheese is bubbling.

For Spicy Chili:

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound Italian turkey sausage, removed from casing
15-ounce can black beans, drained
15-ounce can cannellini (white) beans, drained
19-ounce can chili with no beans
1 cup prepared chunky salsa
Sliced green onions, for garnish
Shredded cheddar cheese, for garnish

Heat oil over medium heat in 3-quart saucepan. Add sausage and brown. Add both kinds of beans, chili and salsa; cook until hot. Pour into prepared bread bowl. Garnish with onions and cheese. Place paddles around bowl. Serve immediately.

Makes 4 entree servings or 18 appetizer servings.



The New War on Terrorism A Faculty Forum

A Northern Essex Community College faculty panel will address the many aspects of the new war on terrorism, which will include issues of civil liberties, intelligence, security and some historical background that will help us understand the anger against the United States.

Panel members will include:

Arthur Barlas
Bill Heineman
Terry Kalil
Carol Liebman
Gerry Morin

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2002

**Location: Library Conference Area
Haverhill Campus**

Time: 12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Judith Kamber at 978-556-3955 or at jkamber@necc.mass.edu.

Co-Sponsored by:
The Staff Development Committee
The Contemporary Affairs Club
The Criminal Justice Program
The History and Government Program

Health & Happiness

Plow into winter

Winter hiking, skiing and snowboarding excursions

By KRISTIN BELL
Health & Happiness Editor

After many weeks of waiting, snow has finally fallen. The powder has blanketed the landscape and the child in all of us can't wait to go out and play.

Now is the time for hikers, skiers and snowboarders to take advantage of the winter trips the new Ski and Snowboard Club have planned.

The winter activities are open to all students, faculty, and staff members. These winter excursions have the potential of providing a fun and exciting method of exercising, as

well as a good way to meet new people.

The first of these outings is planned for Attitash Mountain on Saturday Feb. 2, 2002. The cost for the trip is \$47, which includes round trip travel on a coach bus and lift ticket. Ski and snowboard rentals and lessons are offered at the mountain for an additional fee.

If hiking is where your outdoor activity interests are, a winter hiking trip to the White Mountains is planned for Saturday, Feb. 16. The only cost is \$18 for snowshoe

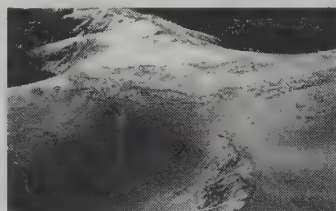
rentals. In the case of bad weather the trip be on Saturday, Feb. 23.

A second ski and snowboard trip is planned for Wildcat Mountain on Sunday, March 10. The cost is \$48, which includes a lift ticket and travel on a coach bus to and from the mountain. Ski rental cost is an additional \$22, snowboard rentals are \$30, and lessons for either cost \$22. Lessons usually last an hour.

Participants are asked to meet in the cafeteria, Haverhill campus, at 6 a.m. Arrival back at the campus is expected be around 7 p.m.

Anyone that is interested please contact John Daly, Ski and Snowboard Club adviser, well in advance, in Room C201 in Haverhill; 978-556-3848, and Room 200 in Lawrence; 978-738-7425.

You may also contact Cheryl Berry; Student Activities, Lawrence, or Sue MacAvoy; Fitness & Health Center, Haverhill.



file photo

Tofu is for everyone, not just vegetarians

(AP) The vegetarian love affair with tofu has done as much harm as good for the reputation of the rather mild-mannered soy bean.

Though it certainly has publicized the health benefits and versatility of this legume, the emphasis on tofu has left many people with the impression it is the only, or best, source of soy protein.

Not the case. And that's good news for those whose stomachs turn at the sight of the gelatinous white blocks.

The shelves of natural food stores, and increasingly mainstream grocers, are stacked with great sources of soy—some cleverly disguised, others good in their own right.

Miso is one such source. Best known as the primary ingredient in Japanese soups, miso is a salty paste made from fermented soy beans and other ingredients.

Like cheese, miso is aged. The longer it ages, the darker its color and stronger its taste. First-time miso buyers should stick with white or yellow, which has a sweet, tangy taste. When dark misos are used in soups they can taste like beef broth, to vegetarian tastebuds.

Miso soup is easy to make. Bring water and vegetables to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook until the vegetables are tender. Add miso during the final 3 minutes, as cooking intensifies its flavor. Use 1 teaspoon miso per 1 cup of liquid.

But soup is just the beginning. Miso can make a great marinade for vegetables, seafood and even meats. It also is popular whipped into scrambled eggs, omelets and mashed potatoes, and spread like butter on corn-on-the-cob.

Shish kebabs are a great way to introduce people to the taste of miso. Try this recipe for kebabs with miso sauce from William Shurtleff and Akiko Aoyagi's "The Book of Miso," an exhaustive treatment of miso and its many uses.

Those who eat seafood can substitute giant scallops for the tofu. Vegetarians trying to cut fat could use baked, seasoned tofu instead of deep-fried.

Shish Kebabs With Miso Sauce (Preparation 1 hour 15 minutes)

- 6 tablespoons red, barley or Hatcho miso (see note)
- 3 teaspoons toasted sesame seed oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons honey
- 3/4 teaspoon fresh grated ginger
- 1 1/2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 6 tablespoons water
- 5 ounces deep-fried tofu, cut into bite-sized cubes
- 4 green peppers, cut into large chunks
- 8 white button mushrooms
- 1 apple, cut into bite-sized chunks
- 8 chunks firm pineapple
- 4 small blanched onions (pickled onions are a nice variation)
- 4 small firm tomatoes
- 1 celery stalk, cut into small chunks

To make the marinade, combine miso, oil, honey, ginger, garlic and water in a blender and puree until smooth.

Arrange remaining ingredients in a shallow bowl and cover with marinade. Refrigerate for 1 hour, turning ingredients occasionally to coat with sauce.

While ingredients marinate, soak 8 wooden skewers in water. Soaking the skewers prevents them from burning.

Skewer the ingredients, then arrange on a baking sheet. Broil for 3 or 4 minutes, or until vegetables are just tender or begin to crisp at the edges. Use any marinade remaining in the bowl to baste once during broiling.

Makes 4 servings.

Note: Red, barley and Hatcho misos, along with other dark or medium misos, are readily available where miso is sold, and are usually clearly labeled. (Shish Kebabs With Miso Sauce is taken from William Shurtleff and Akiko Aoyagi's "The Books of Miso," Ten Speed Press, 2001, \$19.95)

Tempeh is another fermented soy bean product, though it bears no resemblance to miso. It is made from crushed soy beans, comes in 1/2-inch thick slabs and has a meaty texture. Several companies use tempeh to make bacon-like products.

Because tempeh is firmer than tofu, it can be easier to stir-fry. Though edible right from the package, tempeh is best when marinated and cooked. Raw tempeh can have a

bitter taste.

For a great "meat" sauce for pasta or lasagna, crumble tempeh in a skillet with a bit of olive oil and soy sauce. Saute until the tempeh bits brown, about 5 minutes. Add this to any prepared pasta sauce.

Here are some other great ways to enjoy soy, minus the tofu:

- Toasted and salted soy nuts can be purchased at most grocers and make a great addition to any bowl of mixed nuts. They also can be sprinkled over pasta dishes, much like peanuts are in many Thai noodle dishes.

- Soy milks have come a long way in recent years, and many varieties now are available in the refrigerated sections alongside dairy milk. For drinking or on cereals, use vanilla-flavored for the creamiest taste. Soy milk also is good for baking.

- Speaking of cereals, soy has been added to or turned into numerous breakfast cereals, from hearty granolas to corn flake-like crunches. There also are several hot oatmeal-like versions.

- Soy flours are an easy way to slip the bean into baked goods such as cookies and cakes. The soy flour won't change the flavor. Substitute up to 1/2 cup of wheat flour with soy.

- Soy protein powders are great for people who drink fruit smoothies. One scoop will give the drink a creamy, thick consistency without altering its taste.

- Many breads now are being baked using soy flours. Don't just think sandwich. Brush the slices with olive oil, then toast in a 350 F oven until dry and crisp. Cut into chunks for croutons, or pulverize in a food processor for bread crumbs.

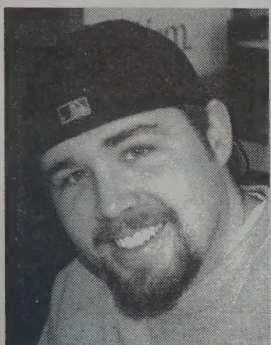
- Edamame, often served in Asian restaurants, are fresh soy beans still in the pods. Most grocers sell them frozen. Steam the beans for 5 minutes. To serve, toss them in a bowl with a generous sprinkling of salt. To eat, hold a pod by one end, and place the other end in your mouth. Suck the beans out of the pod, licking the salt off the outside in the process.



Tofu is a healthy source of protein that can be tasty, too.

Sports

TIM SILVA, SPORTS EDITOR



Hi! My name is Tim Silva and I am the sports editor of the Observer this semester. In addition to my love of sports I also enjoy reading and music. I hope to write informative and enjoyable articles about the world of sports paying particular attention to the scene right here at NECC. I feel very fortunate to be doing what I love at this point in my life. If I could be remembered by one quote I would have to refer to the great Dave Matthews "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die." Keep it real and I'll be writing at ya.

Sox sale to Henry final... again

Sox don't get greedy, stay with Henry bid

BY TIM SILVA
Sports Editor

For the third time in three weeks the owners of the Boston Red Sox decided to sell the team to a group led by Florida financier John Henry. Reconfirmation of the sale came Jan. 19 after baseball owners approved the deal during winter meetings in Phoenix. Henry, who owns the Florida Marlins, plans to sell the team for \$158 million to Jeffrey Loria, current owner of the Montreal Expos. Loria plans on selling his team to the commissioner's office for \$120 million.

The opportunity for owners to vote on the sale presented itself following the decision of Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas Reilly to go along with the sale. Reilly had been investigating the sale since the team first

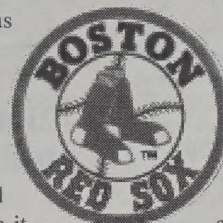
agreed to sell to the Henry group back on Dec. 20. In an official statement Red Sox chief executive officer John Harrington said, "We always knew people would fight very hard to own the Red Sox, and that emotions would run high. But enough is enough, it is obvious that there will be another round of criticism from the disappointed. So be it. This is the best decision for the trust and the foundation because it has the highest probability of closing."

Henry's group includes former San Diego owner Tom Werner, former Padres and Orioles president Larry Lucchino and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. Under the agreement reached with Reilly the group will create a new charitable organization expected to donate at least \$20 million over 10 years to youth, educational and other organizations. In a statement Henry said, "We look forward to forging strong ties within the Boston area and throughout the New England community via this foundation for

many years to come." As a part of the agreement, Harrington, the current Sox CEO will share control of the Yawkey trust with an expanded board that will total nine trustees.

The Auction process, which originally ended Dec. 20, has been a long and winding road that has clearly taken a toll on Harrington and the Yawkey trust. Harrington said the late offers made by cable television billionaire Charles Dolan and New York lawyer Miles Prentice were rejected because they came to late. Harrington stated a \$66 million deposit, a better economic value, and the desire to have the new ownership in place by April's opening day as the main reasons for sticking with the Henry bid.

Hopefully, for the sake of Red Sox fans, this is the final act in a drama that has gone on way to long. With pitchers and catchers set to report to spring training in less than three weeks it's time to put the board room aside and play ball.



Upcoming NECC Games

Women's Basketball

Jan. 24 Bunker Hill Home 5:00

Jan. 26 Mass Bay Home 2:00

Jan. 28 Manchester Home 6:00

Jan. 30 Springfield Away 6:00

Men's Basketball

Jan. 24 Bunker Hill Home 7:00

Jan. 26 Mass Bay Home 4:00

Jan. 28 Manchester Home 6:00

Jan. 31 UCONN Avery Point Away 7:00

Sox sign Nixon, Urbina

Team wisely avoids salary arbitration with one-year deals

BY TIM SILVA
Sports Editor

The Boston Red Sox took two steps in the right direction on Jan. 19 announcing the signings of Trot Nixon and Ugueth Urbina.

The team avoided salary arbitration with both players inking them to one year deals.

Nixon will be paid \$2.7 million a \$2,310,000 raise from a year ago.

Urbina received a significant bump in pay as well collecting \$6.7 million which ranks him among the top relievers in baseball. He was paid \$4.2 million in 2001.

Nixon is coming off a career year batting .280 with 27 home runs and 88 RBIs. Urbina provided steady play at closer as well as middle relief after coming over from the Montreal Expos in July.

The signings of Nixon and Urbina doesn't mark the end of arbitration issues for the Sox.

First baseman Brian Daubach as well as relievers Rolando Arrojo and Rich Garces are eligible for arbitration. Daubach asked for \$2.5 million and was

offered \$2.15 million; Arrojo asked for \$2.8 million and was offered \$1.9 million; Garces asked for \$2.6 million and was offered \$1.8 million. Daubach and Garces should be able to reach middle ground with the team. However, Arrojo seems likely to be headed for a case with an arbitrator.

Meanwhile, the Sox are still waiting to close a two year deal with infielder Pokey Reese which

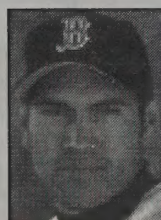
would create a lethal double play combination between Reese and Nomar Garciaparra.

The finalization of the Reese deal combined with the signings of Nixon, Urbina and free agents Johnny Damon and John Burkett paint a pleasant picture for the Sox heading into spring training.

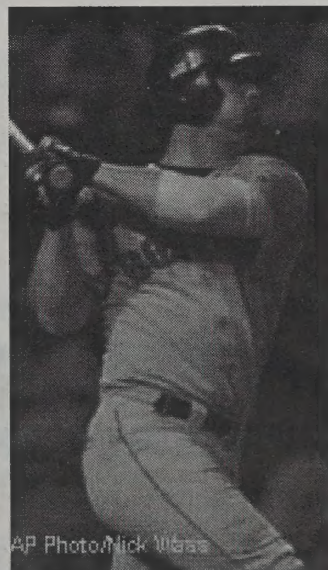


Pokey Reese (above), would be big addition to Sox infield

ESPN.com photos



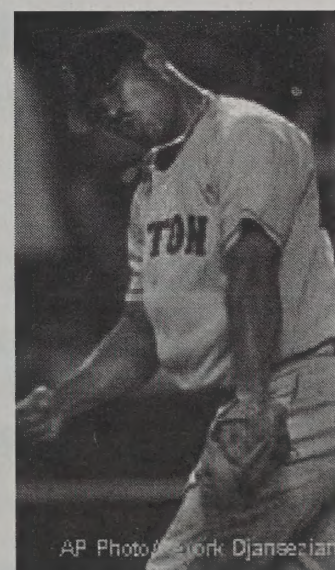
Johnny Damon (above), will add speed to top of Sox line-up



AP Photo/Nickolas...

Boston Red Sox photo

Trot Nixon (above), will be carrying a little more weight around in his wallet.



AP Photo/Mark Djansezian

Boston Red Sox picture

Ugueth Urbina (above), will be pumping his fists more frequently due to new contract

Sports

Dungy, Schottenheimer, among losers in coaching merry-go-round

BY TIM SILVA
Sports Editor

With the NFL playoffs not even two weeks old many high profile head coaches are already paying for not making it to the promised land. Indianapolis head coach Jim Mora was the first to get the ax following a disappointing season that saw his Colts stumble to the finish line. Mora went 32-34 over four seasons despite having one of the most high powered offenses in the league.

In a shocking turn of events University of Florida head coach Steve Spurrier stepped down Jan. 4 after 12 years, six southeastern conference titles, and a national championship. This prompted the owner of the Washington Redskins, Dan Snyder, to fire coach Marty Schottenheimer after only

one season. Snyder then made Spurrier an offer he couldn't refuse making him the highest paid coach in

fired after becoming the most successful coach in Bucs history compiling a 54-42 record in six seasons while leading

done great things for our football team and our community."

As far as where Mora,

like the most likely fit for Dungy. The Colts are the polar opposite of what Dungy was faced with in Tampa. Fueled by a high powered offense combined with a defense in need of a serious facelift Indy and Dungy would be a match made in heaven.

Riley would best be served as a coordinator or perhaps by turning to the college ranks. Dennis Green would benefit from a vacation however, knowing his history and competitive nature he won't stay idle for long.

The one coach at the point of no return is Seifert. With one of the best winning percentages in NFL history, the two time Super Bowl champion (49ers), should enjoy retirement as well as his sure status as a future hall of famer.

Tony has done great things for our football team and our community.

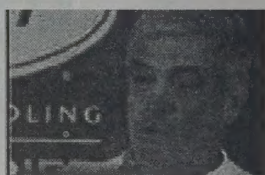
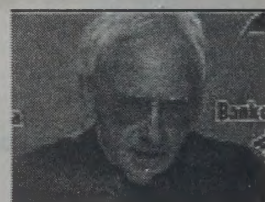
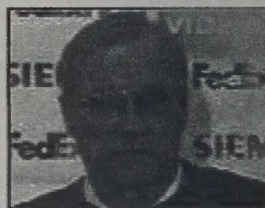
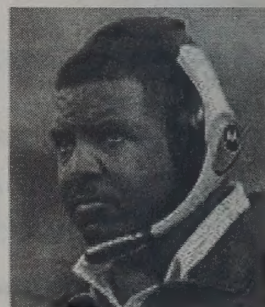
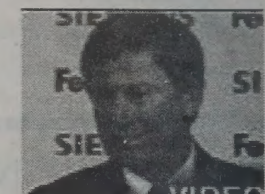
**—Malcolm Glazer
Owner, Tampa Bay**

NFL history. The deal, announced Jan. 14, pays Spurrier \$25 million over five years.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Tony Dungy's job had long been rumored to be in jeopardy and on Jan. 14 it became a reality. Dungy was

the Bucs to the playoffs in four of the last five years. In a brief statement Bucs owner Malcolm Glazer said, "It has been a privilege to work with not only Tony Dungy the coach, but Tony Dungy the man. This has been a most difficult decision. Tony has

Dungy, and other recently released coaches like Dennis Green, Mike Riley, and George Seifert will end up there are many possibilities. Dungy will most likely head up the wish lists of the majority of coachless teams in the league. Indianapolis seems



ESPN.com photos

Tom Hayden

Talks about "The Roots of Personal Power and Political Identity" and his new book *Irish on the Inside: In Search of the Soul of Irish America*

**Tuesday, Jan. 29
Noon**

**Free and Open to
the Public**



Northern Essex Community College

Haverhill Campus, Bentley Library

**Sponsored by the Liberal Arts Revitalization
Committee**

Coaches in the news, from top:
Tony Dungy, Steve Spurrier,
Denny Green, Marty
Schottenheimer, George Seifert,
Jim Mora, and Mike Riley

Sports

Steelers, Pats headed for war in AFC

Point

BY TIM SILVA
Sports Editor

When looking at the statistics it would be foolish to predict anybody but the Rams to win Super Bowl XXXVI. However, something very special happened Saturday night in Foxboro.

One team led by a very determined quarterback defied the odds and grabbed victory from the jaws of defeat. I am predicting the New England Patriots to win Super Bowl XXXVI because I believe in destiny and I believe in fate.

Through the snowy skies the football gods shined down on the Brady Bunch and propelled them into the AFC championship game.

As Vince Lombardi once said, "On any given Sunday your going to win or your going to lose, the question is can you win or lose like a man."

The odds are stacked against the Pats but Brady and company have beaten them all year. So with a whole lot of heart and a touch of luck look for the Patriots to take home the Lombardi Trophy on Super Bowl Sunday.

Counter Point

BY GAYLE SIMONE
Editor

The St. Louis Rams have been deemed the team to beat even after the first game of the season.

The regular season was dominated by the Rams with a record of 14-2.

Fans and sports announcers have nicknamed the team "the greatest show on turf."

They have the league's MVP, Kurt Warner, and one of the league's premier running backs, Marshall Faulk.

What could possibly stop them? Well, nothing. Unless you take out Warner and Faulk, I feel no one can beat the Rams.

So after a one year absence, it is my pick, the St. Louis Rams are going to be the Superbowl XXXVI Champions.

This has nothing to do with luck, it's all about talent and statistics.

See you in New Orleans where the Rams will be victorious. Holding up the Vince Lombardi Trophy for the second time in three years.

BY TIM SILVA
Sports Editor

Who could have predicted this? Now that the smoke has cleared and the New England Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelers stand alone ready to battle for the AFC championship, the football world can breathe in some fresh air. With their improbable 16-13 overtime win Saturday night over the Oakland Raiders the Patriots proved to everybody they are not to be taken lightly. Quarterback Tom Brady certified himself as a big time quarterback worthy of his pro bowl status. With the help of Jermaine Wiggins and David Patten, Brady played a gutsy fourth quarter leading the Pats all the way back from a 10-3 deficit in Elway like fashion. The win marks the Patriots first trip to the AFC title game since 1996.

The Steelers enter the game with a little more publicity. Following a terrific season, which saw the team compile a 13-3 record, the Steelers disposed of the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens in impressive fashion 27-10. Led by a

potent defense and the magician like play of quarterback Kordell Stewart the Steelers made a loud statement that the players and coaches of New England better hear loud and clear.

Come game time both teams will have broken down and dissected both teams game films but the truth lies somewhere much deeper. This game will be decided by which quarterback has his team completely behind him. The Steelers and Patriots are going to war with Brady and Stewart playing the parts of commanding officers. Coaches Bill Belichick and Bill Cowher can only make the game plan, the troops have to make it happen. Brady has been doing it all year amongst extreme pressure that just hasn't seemed to affect the cool California kid. Stewart has enjoyed an awakening of unreal proportions. After struggling through three seasons of mistakes, disappointments, and repeated demotions Stewart has bounced back and bounced back strong leading the Steelers to the best record in the AFC.

One big question mark going into the game is the health of Steelers star running back Jerome Bettis. The bus

has missed six plus weeks of action including the win over the Ravens. Team doctors say there is a good chance of Bettis. His presence would be a big boost for a team already in very good shape.

The Patriots enter the game in decent shape health wise. Considering the blizzard like conditions of the Raiders game this is no small feat. A balanced game plan of runs, stunts, and both long and short passes will give the Patriots their best chance to win.

In what should prove to be a very interesting contest both teams need to play their cards very close to their chests. One careless mistake could prove to be very costly. A very successful Patriots running game will square off against the best run defense in the AFC while a very successful Steelers passing game will have to deal with the best red zone defense in the conference.

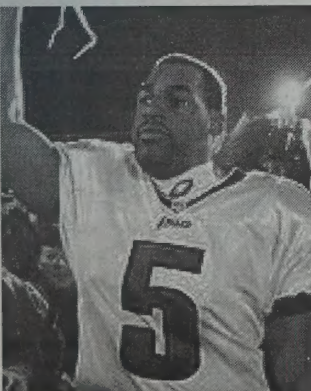
No matter the outcome, one thing's for sure, whoever represents the AFC in the Super Bowl will have without a doubt earned their trip. Let the game begin.

QB's of the Conference Finals

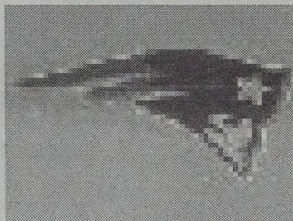


Left to right, Pats QB Tom Brady and Steelers QB Kordell Stewart.

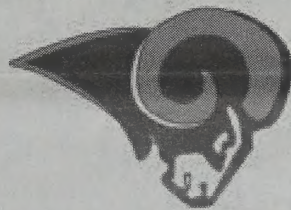
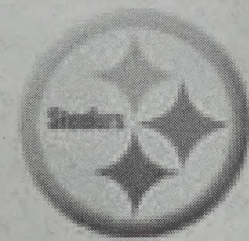
Photos courtesy of ESPN and NFL.com



Left to right, Eagles QB Donovan McNabb and Rams QB Kurt Warner.



Sunday Jan. 27
12:30 p.m.
At Pittsburgh



Sunday Jan. 27
4:15 p.m.
At St. Louis



Rams, Eagles will collide for NFC crown

BY GAYLE SIMONE
Editor

With dominating wins over Tampa Bay and Chicago, the Philadelphia Eagles are going to their first NFC Championship game since 1981.

The 11-5 Eagles face the St. Louis Rams, known as "the greatest show on turf" in St. Louis for the right to go to the Superbowl.

These two teams have only met once in the regular season. The game held in Philadelphia resulted in the Rams defeating the Eagles, 20-17.

The Rams, holding the best regular season record 14-2, had been to the big game in 2000. The result Rams 23, Tennessee Titans 16.

Each of the teams has their own super star, but the quarterback posi-

tion's stats show that the Rams definitely have the edge.

NFL MVP Kurt Warner, Rams QB, has a rating of 101.4 percent. He has a completion rate of 68.7, with 36 touchdowns.

On the other side of the field is Eagles' QB, Donovan McNabb. His rating percent, in comparison to Warner's is a mere 84.3. He has 25 touchdowns with his completion rate at 57.8.

The only category that McNabb has the edge on Warner is interceptions. McNabb has only 12 on the season. Warner has 22.

The running game also puts the Rams up front. Marshall Faulk rushed 260 times for 1382 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Rams. Duce Staley and Correll Buckhalter, both Eagles, rushed for a combined 295 times, totaling 1190 yards and just

four touchdowns.

Receiving, another one sided bid for the Rams. Torrey Holt and Issac Bruce have a combined 2469 yards and 13 touchdowns, Faulk adds another nine touchdowns to that list.

Eagles' receivers James Thrash and Todd Pinkston have combined 1419 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Anyway you look at it the Rams have the edge. They are playing at home, the league's MVP and they hold the best season record for this year.

The Eagles have pride, they have not been to the NFC Championship game or the Superbowl since 1981. They lost that Superbowl to Oakland 27-10. Whichever team wins the game should be interesting.

Photo Essay

Artists use walls as canvas



Haverhill, MA



Haverhill, MA



Haverhill, MA

KORY WAGNER, PHOTO EDITOR/REVIEWER



Hello NECC!!!!!! I'm Kory Wagner the Observer's new Photo Editor and Staff Reviewer. I'm a journalism major here at NECC and am here to serve you, the public. I enjoy long walks on the beach and good conversation. So if you have any ideas or story submittals you can either email me at korywag@aol.com or stop me in the halls.



Andover, MA



Andover, MA



Haverhill, MA